Bishop says Pierantoni ransom went to wrong hands

STORY BELOW; COLUMN 1

P500,000 shop blitz

YIPEEE! SARAP MAG-SHOPPING 'PAG LIBRE!

By Cathy Yamsuan
Inquirer Libre

MARY Christine Tio was inside a taxi when a bank employee, who facilitated her acquisition of a credit card, called her through her cellular

P500,000/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Estrada marks one year in jail

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada marks a year in jail this week determined to reignite his following among the poor and revive his claim to the presidency.

Using newspapers, videos and free handouts and even his recent birthday celebration, the deposed leader has been on a campaign to regain national attention.

The administration of President

ESTRADA/A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, April 22, 2002 ★ 80 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 133 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Balikatan 02-2 opens today; US Marines arrive

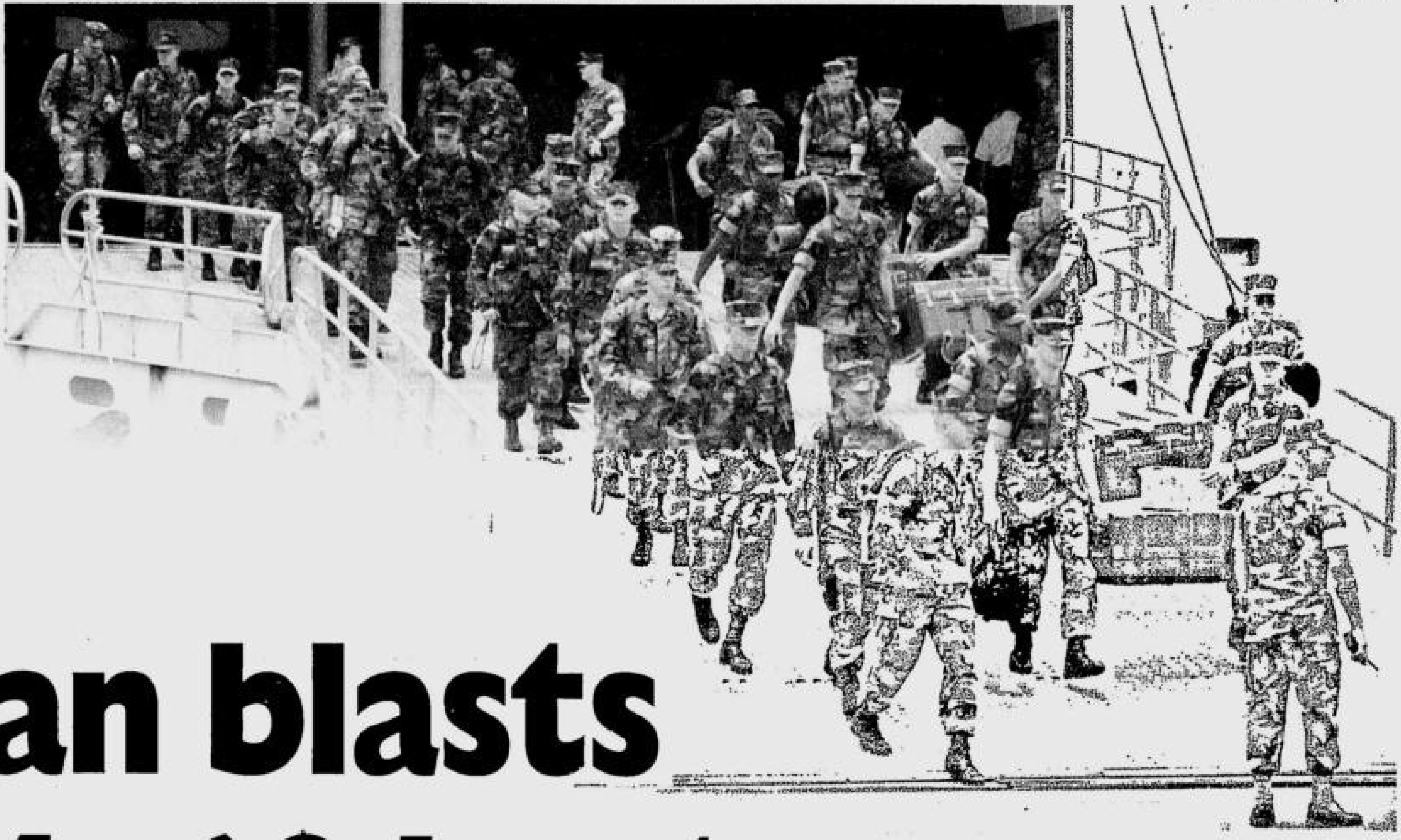
By Martin P. Marfil *in Manila*
and Jun Malig, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SOME 600 American military personnel, mostly members of the United States Marine Corps, arrived at the Subic Bay Freeport yesterday in time for the formal opening of Balikatan 02-2 today.

Balikatan 02-2 is the regular joint military exercise between American and Filipino troops.

It is different from the ongoing Balikatan 02-1 in Basilan and Zamboanga City where 660 US troops are taking part to help Filipino soldiers crush Abu Sayyaf bandits.

BALIKATAN/A20



GenSan blasts kill 14; 60 hurt

CERIA Umali, 45, weeps outside a hospital after her two children were killed by a bomb blast near the Firmart shopping mall in General Santos City. REUTERS

Text messages warned of 18 bombs planted

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Hours before the explosions, text messages had warned of 18 bombs planted in various parts of the city. The messages even urged media workers to stay away from crowded places.

Then at around 3:05 p.m., the first bomb exploded in front of Fitmart-Gensan, a shopping mall on Daproza Avenue, killing 14 persons and wounding 60 others.

Some 30 minutes later, another bomb went off, this time on the national highway, just across from the Phela Convention Center. No one was reported hurt.

The bomb that exploded at Fitmart-Gensan was placed under a tricycle waiting for passengers. The blast peppered with shrapnel at least three tricycles.

Most of the victims were mall-goers, sidewalk vendors and tricycle drivers. The blood of those killed and injured were splattered and their personal belongings scattered on the pavement.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts. But Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police chief for Central Mindanao, told the INQUIRER that his men were already hunting down five suspects. He refused to name the group responsible for the bombings.

An Agence France Presse report quoted Baluyot as saying the blasts were linked to an obscure group called the Indigenous People's Federal Army.

"We have been receiving intelligence reports and threats of attacks from a group called the Federal Army," he said.

The group, which says it is seeking a federal state for tribal groups, has claimed responsibility for planting explosives in Manila and other cities in the past month.

The devices were not intended to explode but radio reports quoted an alleged spokesperson of the group as saying that the next bombs would be real.

Police have identified an engineer from

GENSAN/A20

LET THE GAMES BEGIN. Members of the US 3rd Marine Regiment from Okinawa, Japan, disembark from the US Navy ship at the Subic Bay port to participate in the Balikatan 02-2 war exercises .

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

Israelis pull out of Nablus, Ramallah

JERUSALEM—Israel began pulling out of the West Bank towns of Nablus and Ramallah overnight, but the offices of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Ramallah and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem remained surrounded by Israeli tanks and troops.

Global attention also remained focused on Jenin, another West Bank town from which Israeli troops have withdrawn recently. US Undersecretary of State for the Middle East William Burns, who visited the remains of the Palestinian refugee camp there over the weekend, described the scene as a "human tragedy for thousands of innocent Palestinian people."

The United States is Israel's closest ally and primary military supplier, but last Friday it sponsored a UN resolution calling for a fact-finding team, chosen by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, to be sent to Jenin.

Russian Middle East envoy Andrei Vdovin said he was shocked by "the extent of the destruction" he saw in a visit to the Jenin refugee camp the other day.

The European Union has also called on Israel to grant nongovernment organizations immediate access to the Palestinian population, the Spanish EU presidency said. Raanan Gissin, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesperson, said Israel would cooperate with any UN team "because we have nothing to hide."

Palestinians say Israeli forces massacred hundreds of people during the nine-day

ISRAELIS/A19

Pierantoni ransom went to wrong hands

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(First of two parts)

BISHOP'S DIARY

An I-Team *Report*

MONEY did change hands, but where did the ransom go?

Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni's bishop kept a diary during the kidnapping ordeal, which started on Oct. 17 and ended—171 harrowing days later—only at 2 a.m. on April 8, when the Italian priest walked out of the mountain and into a waiting van.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the rescue came after a "fierce battle in the mountains of Mindanao." The testimony of Bishop Zacarias Jimenez of the diocese of Pagadian in Zamboanga del Sur, buttressed by the diary he kept, says otherwise.

Last week, Bishop Jimenez sat down with the INQUIRER to talk about what he knew, including a botched ransom payoff in January, when unidentified armed men took the money and ran. He told a long and circuitous story, about a six-month-long game of tug-of-war, hide and seek and now-you-pay-me-now-you-don't.

He told the INQUIRER that he hoped his story would erase the confusion surrounding Pierantoni's 12-hour walk to freedom, and teach a lesson or two.

"As early as August 2001, two months before Father Pierantoni was kidnapped, we already received a warning, via Dimataling Mayor Haniel Baya . . . that the two foreigners working there might be kidnapped," the bishop recalled. He was referring to Pierantoni and Fr. Janusz Burzawa, a Pole, who both served in Dimataling and belonged to the religious order of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJ).

At the time of the warning, Jimenez said, the two priests were in Bohol to accompany Burzawa's sister, who was visiting. But he was able to get in touch with the two to warn them.

"I (also) went to Dimataling and told the people to speak out and the priests to tackle this in their Sunday homilies. I also asked the mayor to please help in the security of

PIERANTONI/A19

Balikatan civic action sets stage for extension

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE BALIKATAN 02-1 joint Philippine-US military exercises in southern Philippines have been under way since January. Under the terms of reference (TOR) signed in February, the exercises are to terminate at the end of July.

More than halfway into the launching of the Balikatan, there are no signs that it will accomplish the high expectations it raised among the public about its perceived main objective—wiping out the Abu Sayyaf trapped in the forests of Basilan.

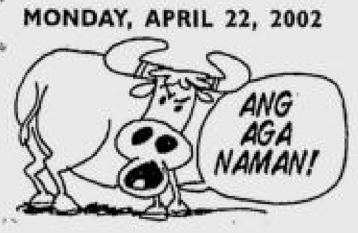
Instead, the Balikatan has become an open-ended operation whose civic action component allowed in the TOR has become more emphasized than the combat aspect, and the Macapagal administration and the US government are now considering extending it beyond July.

Also, the military operations have been accompanied by unconfirmed reports of negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf for the freeing of their American hostages, the Burnham couple, reinforcing the perception that the US Special Forces, together with Filipino troops, are holding back the planned assault on the Abu Sayyaf lair until the hostages are out of harm's way.

Last weekend, President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the reinforcement of the 660 US troops involved in the exercises

BALIKATAN/A20

Second FRONT PAGE


ANG AGA NAMAN!

Gloria said to be gearing for 2004

By Carlito Pablo

WHILE lawmakers are rushing to amend the Constitution, President Macapagal-Arroyo is stepping up the building of her "personal political machinery" for the 2004 election, sources privy to this effort said.

An administration source said the effort is focused on the grassroots organization Kaibigan ni GMA, which is personally directed by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"Her election bid is inevitable and she is relying principally on her own personal political machinery to carry her through," said the source who asked not to be named. "We expect all these Cha-cha (Charter change) noises to peter out as 2004 approaches."

The KGMA, which can be compared to the Jeep ni Erap, the grassroots machinery of Joseph Estrada when he ran for president in 1998, is building chapters at the barangay level.

"The closer 2004 gets, the less room cha-cha advocates will have to operate in," the source. "Come election time, these politicians will have no choice but to align themselves with whom they believe is a strong contender."

"President Macapagal wants to have her trusted and reliable core even before that time," the source added.

A non-government source said the Macapagal camp has started initial talks with mostly regional political parties to put together what will later serve as the core of a coalition for the President's reelection bid.

The source, who also asked not to be named, said these parties include among others the Mindanao-based Ompiah party of Vice Gov. Majid Mutilan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"A 'groundworking' effort is underway to put up a coalition to support President Macapagal in the coming elections," the source said.

The same source noted that the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas is playing a key role in the coalition building. Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser for special concerns, is the chair of the PDSP.

The PDSP recently hosted the Socialist International Asia-Pacific Committee forum in Manila and the affair was keynoted by President Macapagal.

The PDSP's delegates to the convention included 39 local government officials, mostly mayors, vice governors and provincial governors.

In a previous interview, Rep. Florencio Abad (Batanes), president of the Liberal Party, expressed support to the efforts which he described as President Macapagal's "freeing herself from the domineering influence of Lakas-NUCD."

Abad was referring to the ruling party which is more identified with former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, the latter being a strong proponent of constitutional amendments.

"It is to her best interest to put up her own vehicle even as she had been brought to power by a coalition which we now know as the People Power Coalition," Abad said. "Let us remember that the PPC worked only as far as ousting Erap but she didn't and can't rely on PPC to govern."

Abad said that LP leaders, in previous conversations with President Macapagal, had openly encouraged her to even put up a new political party.

Abad said the LP, which is a member of the PPC, "is open to a new form of coalition, a tighter one that could serve common goals in the 2004 elections."

It is known in political circles that the LP want Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas to serve as Ms Macapagal's running mate in the coming polls.

Justify Cha-cha, Joe de V dared

By R. Nazareno and C. Avendaño

SEN. Blas Ople yesterday challenged Speaker Jose de Venecia to cite "very good reasons to tinker with the 1987 Constitution" other than the desire of some Congress members to lift the limits on their term of office.

"(De Venecia) should instruct his cohorts in the House to stop the revival of Charter change," Ople told Senate reporters.

Ople, who is opposed to any move to amend the Constitution, said that Charter change "can only add to the division of society at a time when we should be united."

He noted that not one Congress member has advanced one good reason to amend the Charter.

"In fact, one of them admitted that their purpose is to lift term limits so they could run again, just to hang on to power," said Ople, who chairs the Senate foreign relations committee.

It was earlier reported that Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. had proposed a "compromise" that would allow De Venecia to broker for the holding of a constitutional convention without raising suspicions that it was just another scheme by traditional politicians to perpetuate themselves in power.

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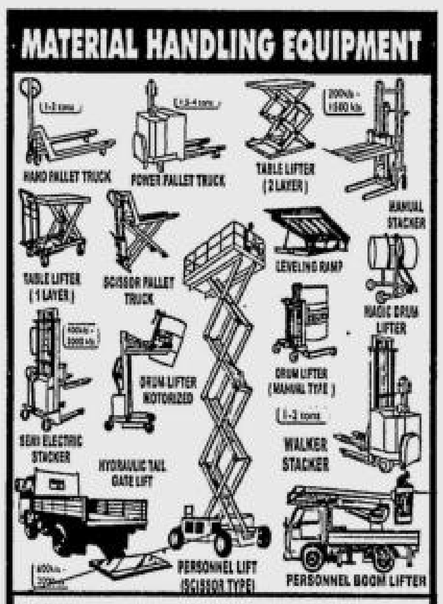

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WAR IN BASILAN

Warning: US could worsen problem

SINGAPORE—The growing US military presence in the Philippines to help the government crush Islamic extremists could spark an escalation of the conflict, a risk consultancy warned.

Washington also risks getting bogged down in a protracted and costly conflict in the southern Philippines if its role is mainly limited to training local forces, the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) said.

PERC's analysis, contained in its latest Asian Intelligence survey, came as more than 300 US military engineers arrived in Basilan on Saturday.

Pentagon officials have said in Washington the engineers will build landing strips and pave roads so that soldiers and supplies can be moved more quickly in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group.

At Manila's request, the US deployed a total of 660 US troops in the Basilan area to support the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf band, which has been linked to the al-Qaida network of Sept. 11 terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

The US troops are officially allowed only to train and advise local troops, but can return fire if fired upon.

"The downside of bringing the global fight against terrorism to the Philippines is that it might fail. The US has so far been unable to use its air power the way it did in Afghanistan," PERC said.

"It is also unable to use its own troops to carry out the fighting. It is doubtful that the Philippines will be able to win a quick and clear victory over the rebels if the role of the US is limited to training and advice.

"Consequently, expectations of the progress on this problem might be too high," it added.

PERC said that by its very nature, the US troop deployment carries military risks.

"In an attempt to discredit the government and to put Washington on the spot, rebels might target US troops or force circumstances where they are drawn into fighting," the Hong Kong-based consultancy said.

"To the extent that Islamic militant groups outside the country now increase monetary and other support to the Islamic rebels in the southern Philippines to fight against this more formidable force, there is also a risk that the whole problem of rebel groups in the Philippines could escalate."

Should this happen, PERC warned that "the magnitude of terrorism that has taken place to date—mainly in the form of kidnappings of tourists—could take on new, more dangerous dimensions."

Members of a waning communist rebellion and guerrillas of a bigger Islamic insurgency, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, have made threats to attack US troops if they encroached in their areas of operation.

US success in its fight against terrorism should be a stabilizing factor for Asia, but should Washington gets "bogged down in a costly, protracted fight against insurgency in the Philippines" or have its anti-terrorism efforts thwarted by developments in the Middle East, it would be destabilizing, PERC added. **AFP**

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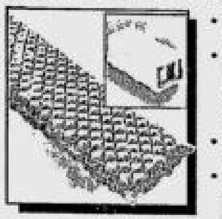

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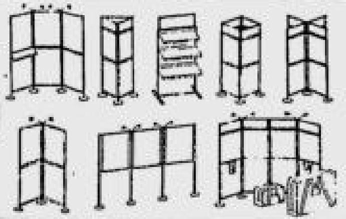

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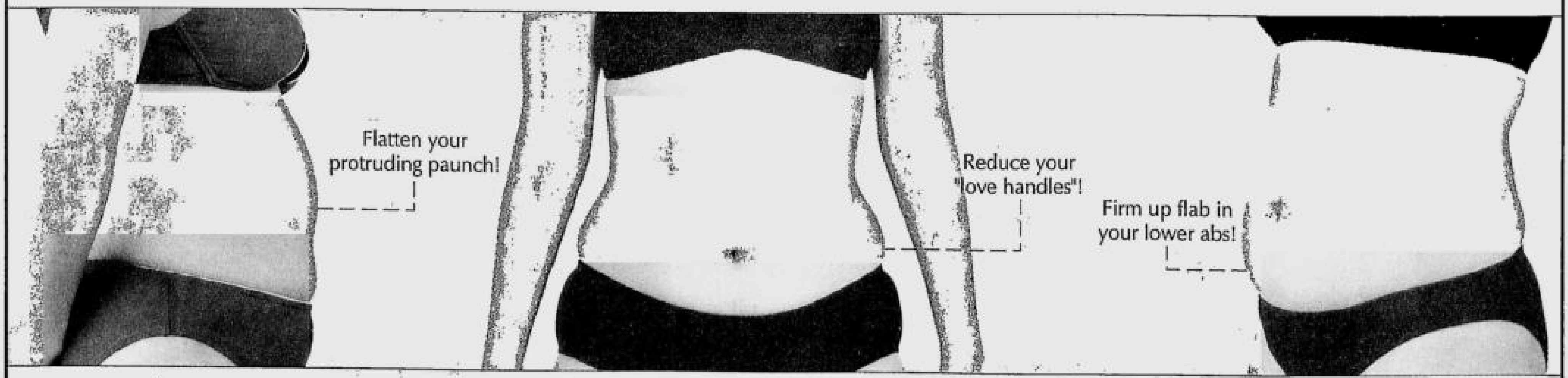

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Go easy on travel advisories, US asked

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday appealed to the United States for it to be "more liberal" in issuing travel advisories against the Philippines.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the US should not be wary about the safety of its citizens because its forces are actually helping the Philippine government eradicate threats like terrorism.

"Not all areas are dangerous or unstable for tourists," Afable said. "In fact it's only Basilan."

The advisory dated April 18 warned American citizens of the dangers of traveling to the country, cautioning them to specifically avoid central, southern and western areas in Mindanao including Zamboanga City.

"That's the determination of the US but they should be more liberal in issuing advisories," Afable said.

Asked why the US seems to be panicky despite the presence of American troops in the country, Afable said: "They may think that the presence of troops is affecting the peace and order situation but it's actually the reverse."

Afable, however, conceded that the US could be apprehensive that the presence of its troops here will invite attacks against its citizens.

But Afable admitted that he has no actual knowledge of the "basis" used by the US State Department in issuing the said advisory.

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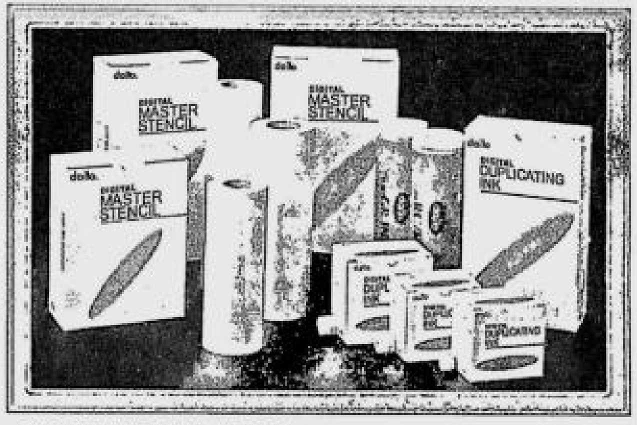

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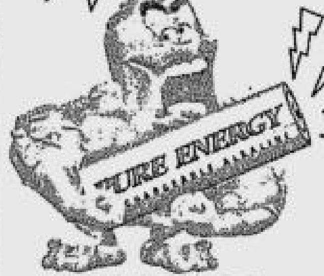

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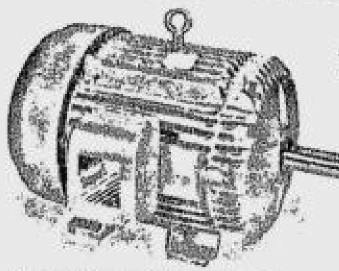

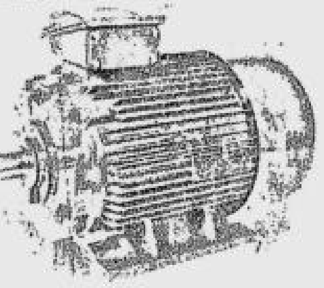

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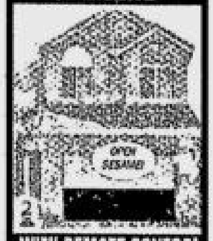

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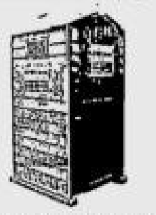

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Garbage crisis in focus on Earth Day

By G. Lacuarta

GARBAGE and what to do with it will be the focus of today's observation of Earth Day, as environmental groups called on the government to implement strictly the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and junk proposals to build incinerators and more landfills.

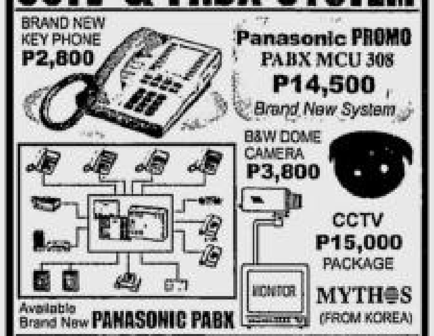
Von Hernandez, campaign director for Southeast Asia of Greenpeace International, said the government should rush the construction of composting and recycling plants, "instead of wasting resources on extremely unfavorable waste management dinosaurs like landfills and incinerators."

Hernandez said the Metro Manila Development Authority has failed dismally to implement the objectives of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the first law signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo shortly after taking over the presidency last year.

"As long as our officials remain obsessed with back-end solutions and quick fixes, we will never break free of the waste crisis," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said the MMDA and Metro Manila mayors were willfully subverting RA 9003 by their lax and almost apathetic execution of waste prevention strategies in their localities and their persistent reliance on high-priced back-end disposal schemes like landfills and incinerators.

RA 9003 mandates the segregation of garbage at its source and the separate collection of discards. It gives preferential treatment to the construction of material recovery facilities over open dumps and landfills. The law specifically requires local government units to execute these waste prevention strategies.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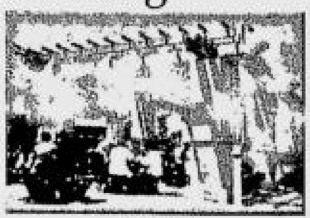
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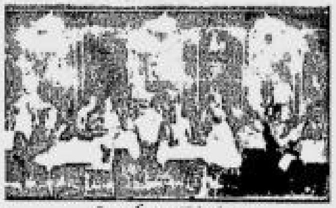
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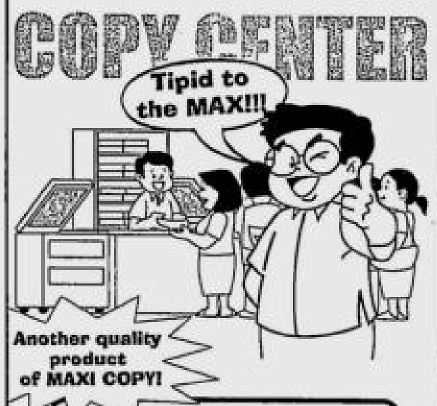
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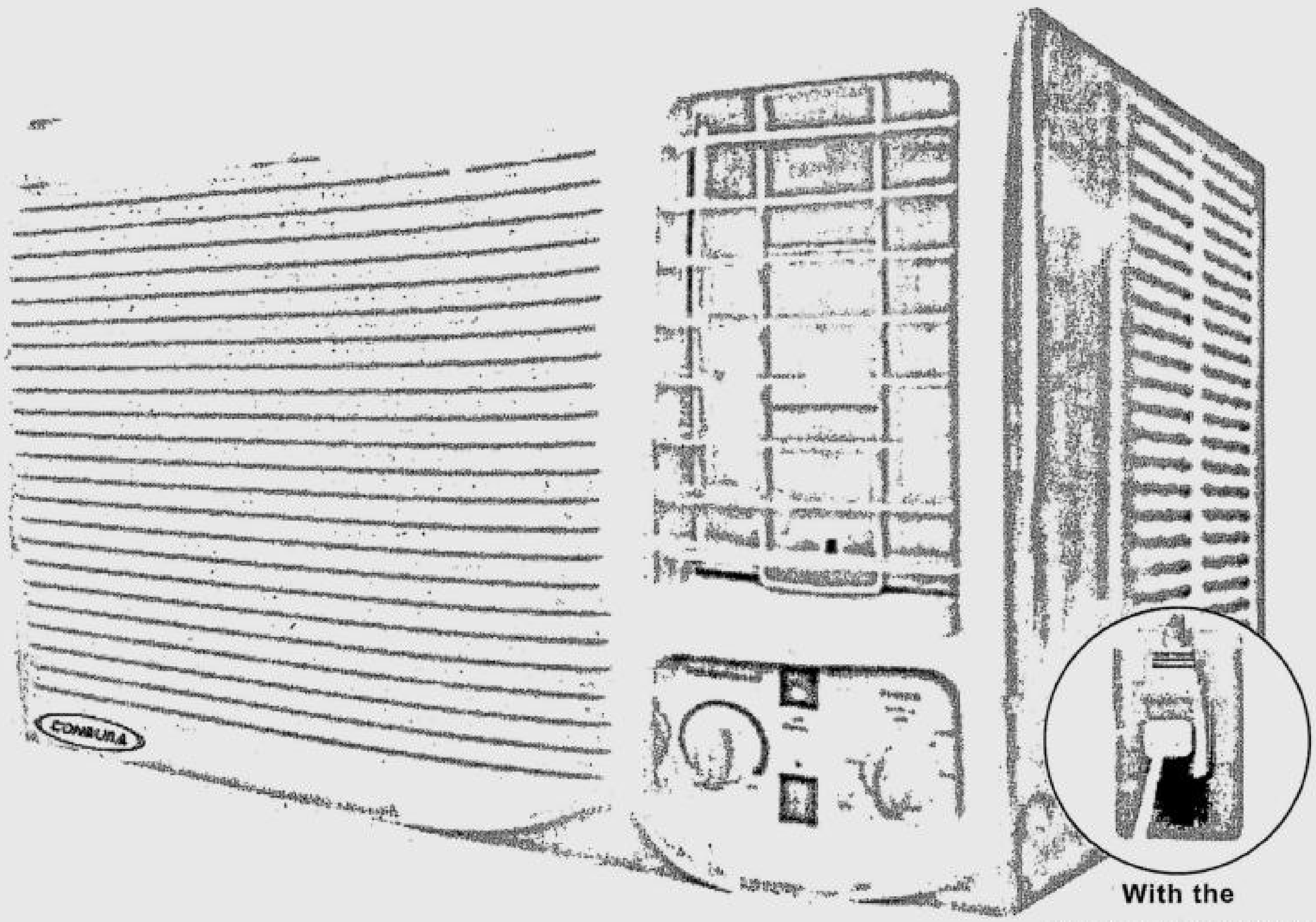

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Shell, Petron hike prices, too

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. and Petron Corp. hiked fuel prices for the second time this month by 37 centavos per liter.

Shell hiked pump prices for gasoline, diesel and kerosene fuel at 10 p.m. on Saturday, while Petron did the same at Sunday noon.

New oil firm TotalFinaElf Philippines Petroleum Corp. hiked pump prices by 27 centavos per liter also at noon yesterday.

Seaoil Petroluem Corp. said it planned to match the latest increases today.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said the latest hike brought to 87 centavos per liter Petron's total price hikes this month.

Petron led the first round of increases by 50 centavos per liter on April 7.

Ruivivar said the firm still had 48 centavos per liter to recover for increased costs between February and March.

"But we do not have plans to raise prices a third time this month," she said. "We would probably do that in May."

Yesterday's price hike was the third this month for TotalFinaElf, which went along with Caltex Philippines Inc. when it hiked its prices by 10 centavos per liter last week.

Caltex said its management had not yet decided on another increase, but was monitoring the situation.

Average crude oil prices zoomed to $22.96 per barrel in March, up by $3.94 from $19.02 in February.

The peso, meanwhile, gained 23 centavos from P51.29 to the dollar in February to P51.06 in March.

The oil firms also pointed to rising prices on the Mean of Platts Singapore (Mops), an index of pricing for refined oil products in the region.

"From only $20.90 per barrel in January, the monthly average price of unleaded gasoline soared to $27.93 in March," said Rona Queaja, TotalFinaElf corporate affairs manager.

Quejada said last week that Mops data for April showed the price of unleaded gasoline was hovering at $30 per barrel.

"Total can only respond to market indicators," she said. "Mops average prices early this year have (gone back) to the levels in September last year."

A series of price decreases started in September, which saw pump prices slashed by an average of P2.50 per liter.

The latest round of increases has brought prices up by P1.22 per liter since January.

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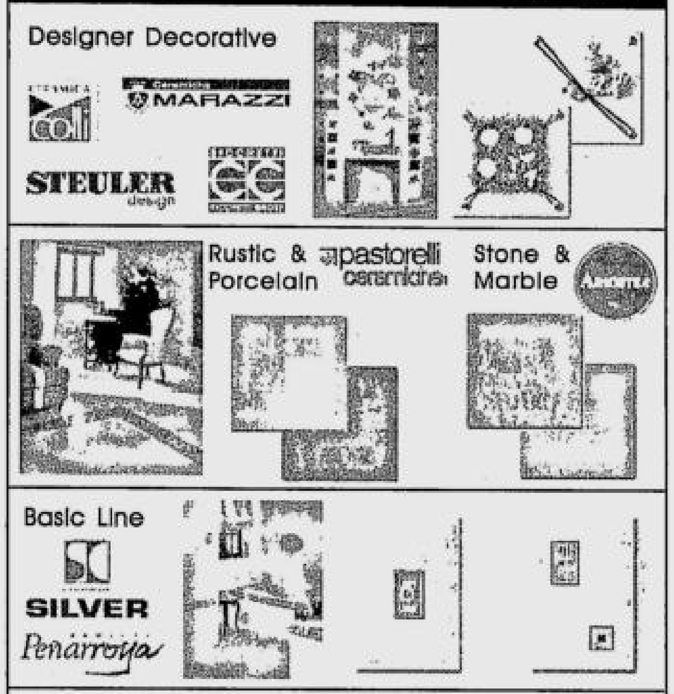

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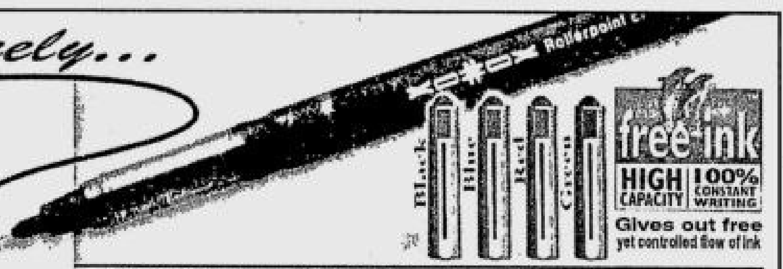

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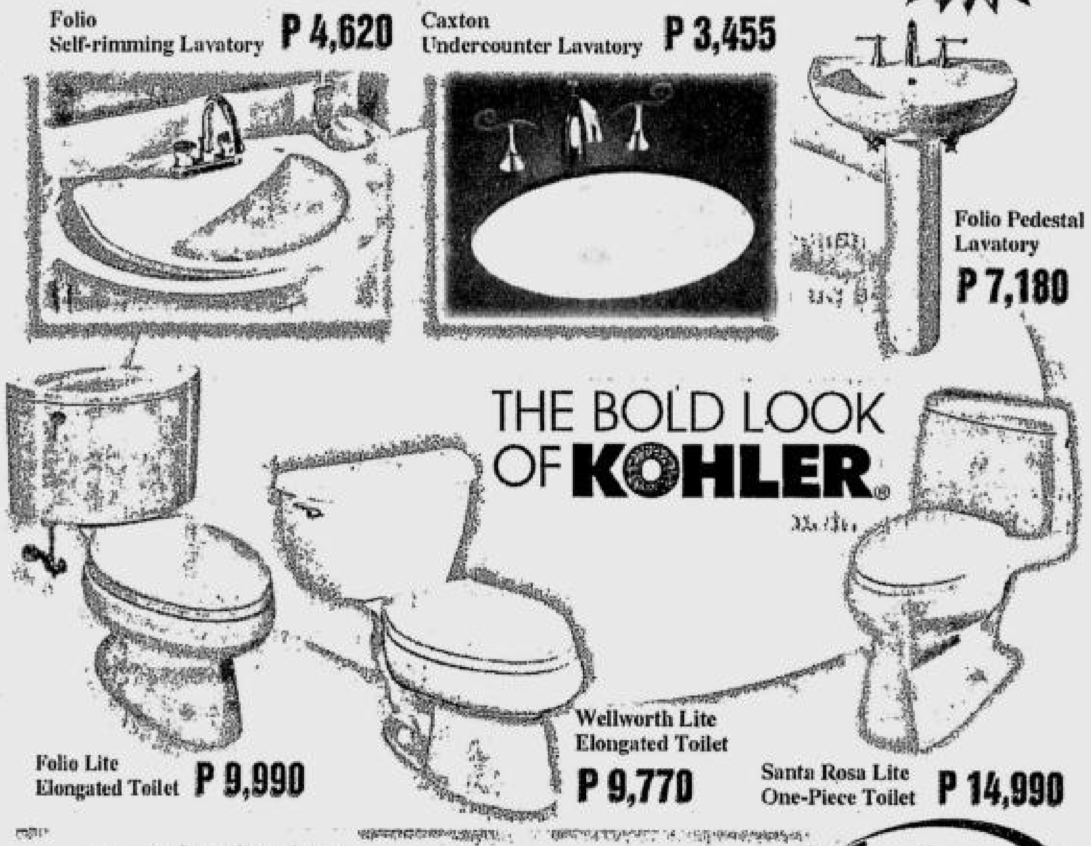
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Solons hit telecom firms for 'text gambling'

By Christine Avendaño

AMID the controversy unleashed by a finance department proposal to tax phone text messaging, legislators are questioning the right of the two mobile phone companies, Smart and Globe, to engage in what they called "text gambling, electronic gambling or even electronic *jueteng*."

Two separate resolutions have been filed in the House seeking an inquiry into the raffles and "games of chance" being conducted by Smart and Globe using text messaging, or the short messaging service (SMS).

In House Resolution No. 473, Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco referred to Smart's "Text to Million" and Globe's "Txtciting."

House Resolution No. 466, authored by Valenzuela City Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, also referred to the two games but included another text game advertised in a newspaper as "Game im Game."

Gunigundo said it was not clear who was running the "Game im Game."

The resolutions were filed last month before Congress went into a Holy Week recess.

According to the Syjuco resolution, the text games are played with "subscribers sending through text messages the answers to questions asked either through newspaper advertisements and/or from their respective message centers."

Winners are promised prizes like expensive cellular phones and even cash amounting to as much as P1 million.

In exchange, Smart and Globe charge participants anywhere from P2.00 to P2.50 per text game.

In a phone interview, Syjuco said that the two firms "are not licensed like the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to include gambling (in their) operations."

"(The games are) out in the open and they're (Smart and Globe are) getting away with it," he said.

Gunigundo, in a separate interview, said his (and Baterina's) resolution wants the House to find out whether the two telecom giants' franchises allowed them to engage in text gambling.

"If not, they should explain the legal basis for launching these text games," Gunigundo said.

He observed that since the resolution was filed, the promotion of these games seemed to have dwindled.

"But it will not prevent us from pursuing an inquiry," he said.

In Davao City, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on Saturday said the finance department should look for other ways, besides imposing a tax on text messaging, to trim the budget deficit.

Pimentel, who admits to sending about 15 text messages to his staff a day, not including messages to friends and families, said the advent of cellular phones and text messaging has revolutionized the world.

"You are downplaying the technology by taxing it immediately," he said.

He said the government should look for more innovative ways to raise revenues and not just single out text messaging.

One of the many ways to raise money would be to address official corruption and the unnecessary waste of government funds, Pimentel said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho made the proposal last week in a desperate bid to trim the government's budget deficit estimated at P130 billion this year.

Camacho said imposing a tax on SMS could be done easily as phone companies charge subscribers of this service separately from phone calls.

But it may be difficult for the government to sell the tax plan to text-crazy Filipinos for whom the basic communication tool is the mobile phone and the most inexpensive service is text messaging. ***With a report from Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Ka Roger sets terms for joining peace forum

LUCENA CITY—The spokesperson of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines said he intends to come out in the open and join a planned peace forum in Southern Tagalog.

This, amid recurring encounters between government forces and New People's Army rebels.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, requested the INQUIRER to relay to Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, that he is seriously considering the invitation offered by the military official for him to participate in the forum.

But Rosal has made it clear that before he formally accepts the invitation, the forum should first be declared open to the media for widest possible coverage.

"It would ensure the transparency of the discussion during the forum," he said in a phone interview.

Rosal stressed that this is aside from the issuance of a safe conduct pass for him and his staff.

"All the other details regarding my participation will follow after it has been thoroughly discussed by the officials of the revolutionary movement," he said.

He added: "I'm just a spokesperson, you know, and whatever statement that I will give will reflect the position of the whole revolutionary movement."

When Rosal's message reached Carolina, the Solcom head readily gave assurance on the requested media coverage of the event.

"There will be media participants in the forum, I can assure Ka Roger of that," the general said.

He described media participation as crucial for the success of the peace meeting. "The media will set the record straight this time because there are lots of time that misinformation prevails over true facts."

When asked what would be the participation of Rosal and company, Carolina replied, "Ka Roger's group has a lot to contribute because they are the problem."

On Rosal's request for a safe conduct pass, the Solcom chief said the issue "is no big deal."

"The government has always been magnanimous in giving safe conduct passes," he said.

When contacted through his cell phone, Rosal merely said they would monitor the development.

Carolina, however, clarified that it is not the military that is initiating the peace forum. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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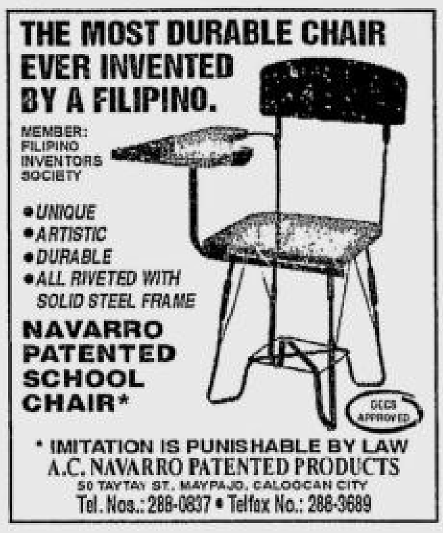

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THE BOTTOMLINE - WILL THE MERALCO BILL BE HIGHER OR LOWER AFTER THE UNBUNDLING

For the consumers to know and understand the process of rate unbundling and its effects, we suggested to Energy Secretary Vince Perez, who has responded positively, that the three Government agencies, namely, DOE, PSALM, NAPOCOR, work together with MERALCO (and the other utility companies) and present in a clear and user-friendly manner, the following:

1. What will the MERALCO bill look like after unbundling the **current power rates (before a rate increase)** taking into consideration the whole process of delivering electricity (i.e. transmission, generation, and distribution).
2. What will the MERALCO bill look like after unbundling the **higher power rates** as mandated by RA 9136.
3. Through this method, **electricity users will understand how much they will have to pay - and the increase or decrease for each component - in the unbundled rate.**

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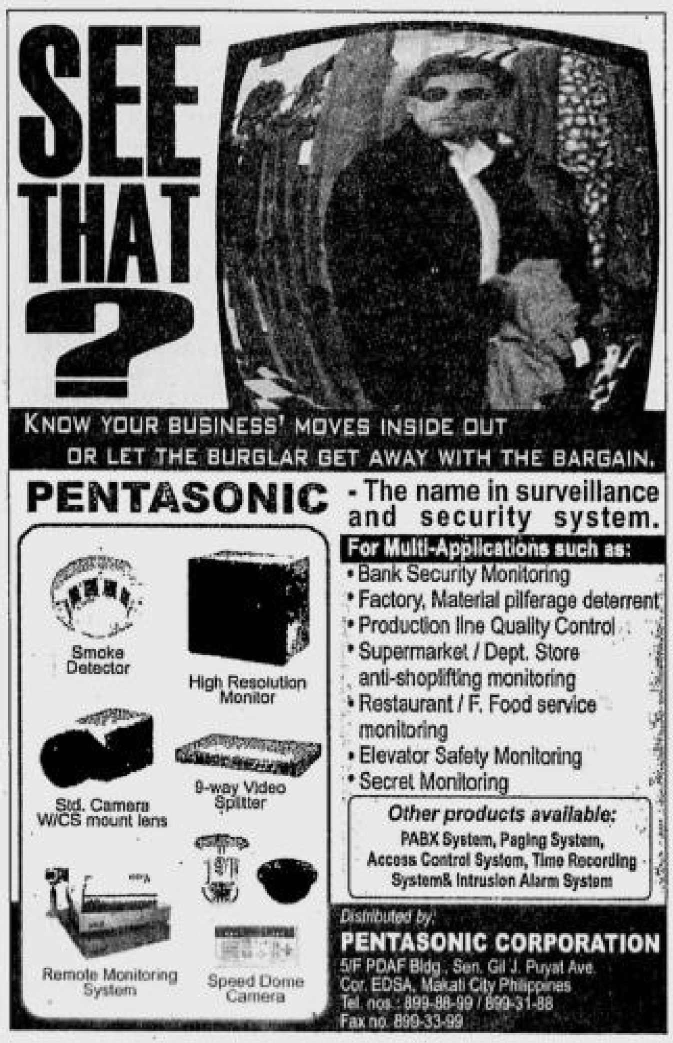

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Distributed by:
PENTASONIC CORPORATION
5/F PDAF Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave.
Cor. EDSA, Makati City Philippines
Tel. nos.: 899-88-99 / 899-31-88
Fax no. 899-33-99

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INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 133
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

* 100% soy ink *

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EDITORIALS

Political question

THE SUPREME Court's April 10 resolution declaring the Jancom incinerator contract a valid and perfected one is only to be expected. The motion for reconsideration filed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority offered arguments that, to quote the resolution, were "a mere rehash of the issues and arguments raised in the original petition."

The MMDA's lawyers must have taken their let's-go-through-the-motion-and-get-this-over-with cue from MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos, who struck a defeatist attitude after the high court denied the original petition in its Jan. 30 decision. "We have our lawyers but we might end up just reiterating our same objections to the contract," he had said then. "The Supreme Court might consider it pro-forma."

It did, but what comes as unanticipated is the scorched-earth strategy being employed by those opposed to the $350-million contract. "The judiciary is now the imperial corruptor," businessman Jose Luis Yulo erupted in a congressional hearing last week. "The third division (of the Supreme Court, which ruled on the case) is lying, they (meaning the five members of the division) should all be impeached," Yulo thundered, to the applause (our reporter dutifully noted) of the environmentalists present at the hearing. Yulo is chair of Pro-Environment Corp., a business rival of Jancom's. This outburst is unexpected, not because we doubt the oppositors' passion for environmental issues, but because the business community has campaigned long and hard to minimize judicial intervention in its business deals.

Lawyer and former senatorial candidate Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, a representative of the pro-environment group Bantay Kontrata, called the ruling "scary."

"This decision is emasculating the executive. We will have an executive department dependent on the judiciary later on," Chato told the House ecology committee.

We fail to see why this should be so. The resolution's own language leaves it up to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to put the contract into effect. This may have been what Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta had in mind when he described the high court's ruling as a "Pontius Pilate" decision, but instead of praising the Supreme Court for its sense of restraint, Acosta—and Yulo, Chato and other oppositors—blame it instead. The high tribunal did not wash its hands off what must be the core issue in the Jancom case, the question of whether the contract is grossly disadvantageous to the government or not. Instead, the justices merely pointed out—correctly—that it was not for them to answer that particular question. "As to the necessity, expediency and wisdom of the contract, these are outside the realm of judicial adjudication."

By hewing closely to the old and necessary doctrine of the political question, the Supreme Court has not only *not* emasculated the executive; it has in fact allowed it all the room it needs to flex the powers that the Constitution has given it.

Executive decision

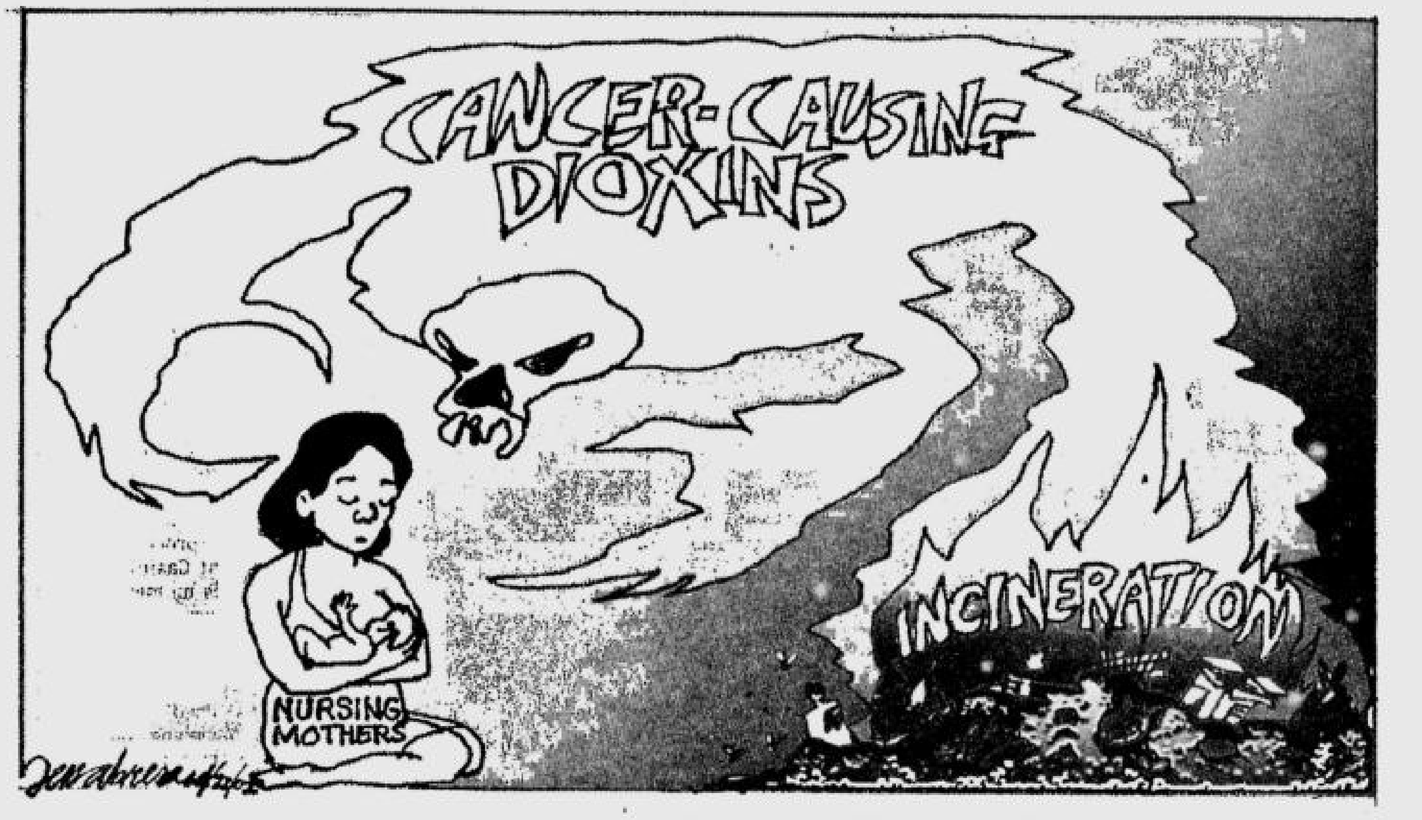
FROM THE LOOKS of it, however, the Jancom contract does not seem to be in the country's best interests.

Any major waste management deal must be reviewed in the light of two landmark laws—the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Solid Waste Management Act—which came into being after 1997, the year the contract was signed. Last week, Greenpeace spokesperson Francis de la Cruz issued a simple and sensible reminder. "Any deal should take into consideration the current state policy on waste management and disposal. There is a new policy atmosphere because of the passage of these new laws. If they would renegotiate, it should be within the framework of the new laws."

Many environmental experts say the contract is alien to the "new policy atmosphere." For this reason alone, the contract invites a long hard look.

But, as the President has said herself, there is no rush to build the Jancom incinerators. She said last week that Metro Manila's towns and cities already have their "interim" garbage disposal systems, and therefore any incinerator that would be built—"by Jancom or Pro-Environment or whoever it may be"—would be a long-term solution.

She also told reporters she was leaving it up to the MMDA to judge the contract's merits. Does this sound like she's preparing to wash her hands off any eventual decision? We don't think so. Tasking the MMDA to do the heavy work of evaluation is itself part of the work of the executive.



More on Erap's exposé on offers of kickbacks

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I WANTED to confront former President Estrada with the power contract with Impsa (Industrias Metallurgicas Perscarmona Sociedad Anonimo) of Argentina which bore his signature and that of then Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara. Erap told me in an interview that he had disapproved it but that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved it two days after she took over. A certified true copy furnished me by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez showed that Erap had signed it. (As I See It, 4/17/02)

I also wanted to confront him with the denial by Jancom vice president Ernesto Banawis that the Australian firm had offered him 20 percent of the P59-billion contract to approve it. Banawis had told a House committee that "his firm had never talked with Estrada, only with his flagships adviser Robert Aventajado." So I mixed with the crowd who were allowed to visit him at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on the eve of his birthday. The moment I got near him, I popped the questions.

"Of course they will deny it," the former president replied. "But I froze that contract. A government guarantee goes with that contract but I did not sign that guarantee when Impsa asked for it. So why was the contract consummated? It would be interesting to see who signed the government guarantee."

Erap had revealed that he had been offered $14 million to approve the deal but that he refused. That $14 million, he said, was later traced to Hong Kong. $2 million had been deposited in the bank account of a high-ranking official in the Macapagal administration, he said. The balance was deposited in the account of the spouse of a top official.

On the Jancom deal, Erap said: "Of course they did not offer the 20 percent commission to me directly. I would have had them arrested for attempted bribery if they had.

"They made the offer to me through Robert Aventajado. He is in charge of the garbage problem. Jancom has admitted talking to him."

The House committee investigating the Jancom deal should also invite Aventajado to testify besides the two former presidents, Estrada and Fidel Ramos.

Now Jancom is talking to Aventajado's successor, Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Metro Manila Development Authority. Jancom has not given up. *Humihirit pa*. It wants a renegotiation, not a rebidding.

But the MMDA is the wrong body to talk to. According to Rep. Augusto Baculio, under the Solid Waste Management Act of 2001 (Republic Act 9003), the right body is the Solid Waste Management Commission (SWMC) of which the MMDA is only one of the members. It is headed by the environment secretary. The other members of the SWMC are the Department of Health, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the chair of the Senate and House ecology committees. Baculio represents the House in the commission.

He told the INQUIRER that "there are new rules concerning waste collection and disposal." He said that Section 60 of RA 9003 mandates that, because of the President's refusal to sign the Jancom contract, the congressional oversight of the committee of the SWMC should draft the new rules of a new contract.

"There has to be a new bidding," Baculio said.

But Jancom would rather renegotiate with Abalos because he is "the weakest link" in the administration's fight against shady deals. The environmental NGOs should watch him closely lest he turn around and recommend to the President that the contract be signed.

Changing the contract again is already outrageous. It has been changed and amended so many times that it is now very different from the original awarded to Jancom. But with Jancom out, the garbage deal should not go to its rival, Pro-Environment, which had won the second bidding. There has to be a new bidding. There are so many advances in the technology of garbage disposal that the systems of both Jancom and Pro-Environment are now obsolete. All one has to do is to browse in the Internet and he will find all the new technologies on waste disposal.

If Jancom has the best technology and the lowest price, it should easily win in a new bidding. So why is it afraid of a new bidding?

On the P6-billion SGS claims for which Erap said he was offered 15 percent, he said it was he who had ordered a review of these claims. The findings of the review committee of Customs Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosqueta that there were double billings and spurious claims were found correct by then Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, Erap said.

After the new administration took over, Erap said, Rosqueta was told by her superiors to change her report. She refused.

Suddenly a new deputy commissioner was appointed by Malacañang to take her place although she is a career executive official, had not resigned, and had no graft case against her. And although the court has ordered her reinstatement, her superiors refused to obey the court's orders.

The tenure of Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva had been extended and he appointed a 70-year-old deputy commissioner, who should have retired five years ago, to take Rosqueta's place as chair of the review committee. In one week, the new committee finished reviewing the claims which took the Rosqueta committee many months to review.

The new committee approved the P6 billion claim which the commissioner lost no time endorsing to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who, just as quickly, approved it and announced to the media that the SGS claim would be paid in full. Their jobs done, the Customs commissioner and his 70-year-old deputy retired with full pay and benefits.

Meanwhile, poor Rosqueta, although she has been ordered reinstated by the courts, is not being paid her salary and is not given any work to do although she reports to her office every day.

Why is the Macapagal administration doing all these? Erap asked.

Poor taste

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HAVING Diosdado Macapagal in a P200 bill is bad enough. This country does not lack for heroes, as I've always said, if we only have the eyes to see it. You have the kid who died after saving several other kids from drowning when a pagoda sank during a fluvial procession in Bulacan many years ago. Sajit Bulig I think his name was. You have the people whose names are carved out on the Wall of Remembrance at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Shrine in Edsa. Any one of them easily qualifies to appear in a major bill, the better to be extolled and emulated.

Being a President is not a natural entitlement to entering the pantheon of heroes, notwithstanding that it is a claim to being buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Certainly, it is not a natural entitlement to having one's face stamped on a bill, something that will pass on to posterity, quite apart from being passed on from hand to hand.

Diosdado Macapagal, according to the *sipsips* in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, whose idea it was to put him in the P200 bill back to back with his daughter, did us the supreme favor of changing Independence Day from July 4 to June 12. True, but that was the first and last nationalist gesture he took. Macapagal in fact would go down in history as the President who variously scuttled his predecessor, Carlos Garcia's "Filipino First" policy, killed the Filipino industries that mushroomed during "import substitution" with his policy of decontrol, and allowed the American servicemen in Clark who had shot Filipino scavengers to death presumably after mistaking them for wild boars to escape Philippine justice.

That was how Ferdinand Marcos won, by posturing as a feisty nationalist—and promptly betraying it by sending the Philcag to Vietnam after he became President. If I remember right, Marcos' catchy campaign phrase was, *"Alis diyan!"* in reference to Macapagal. That phrase may very well come back to haunt his daughter. The bill is asking for it.

Having the daughter in the bill, well, it's thoroughly inexcusable.

At the very least, as Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Armando Suratos admits, it's not true at all that Ms Macapagal did not know about the design of the P200 bill. No bill is circulated without the President's approval, an approval based on a review of its features. The Monetary Board approved its design in April last year, and thereafter Ms Macapagal approved it as well. No way she can feign ignorance there.

Suratos also says that having a living President in a bill is not without precedent. Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Erap have appeared in commemorative coins. And Marcos has appeared on a P5 coin from 1975 to 1980. Well, a commemorative coin is not the same as a regular bill. That's why they call it a commemorative coin, because it commemorates something. It is not meant to be used as legal tender, it is meant to be used as a souvenir. That is one hell of a difference.

As to Marcos appearing on a coin in the past, that is precisely what is wrong with Ms Macapagal appearing on a bill. Both reek of the same hubris, or overweening pride, based on a totally spurious accomplishment. At the very least, both would have us extol them as heroes for being unelected, and unwanted, leaders of this country. That is rubbing salt on wound. Marcos wanted us to thank him for being ruthless enough to declare martial law, and Ms Macapagal wants us to thank her for being lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time.

I can understand that we might want to remember Edsa II on a *dosientos pesos*. But I cannot understand why we would want to remember it with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo being sworn to office. That wasn't Edsa II's defining moment, that was Edsa II's unfortunate byproduct. That wasn't the part where we made history, that was the part where we made do.

Sen. Juan Flavier and the others who have found the design of the P200 a sign of very bad taste—one that cannot possibly improve the national image of Kapampangans—are right: It smacks of politicking. It smacks of electioneering. The very things Ms Macapagal is asking her prospective rivals in 2004 not to do this early in the day. Who knows? Maybe it's one of her advisers' idea of black humor, to make it ironic for her rivals to try to buy votes with P200 bills. Each time they did, they would not be advertising themselves, they would be advertising her.

But you put your face on a bill, and you invite the world to ask with ferocious inquisitiveness what you have done to deserve it. You see Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Jacinto, and Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora, on our various bills, and you know what they have done for us. You see Apolinario Mabini, Jose Abad Santos and Ninoy Aquino on our various bills, and you know what they have done for us. They all fought a tyranny and died to set us free. They are martyrs to the cause.

You see the Macapagals on a P200 bill, and you wonder what they've done for us. Or, well, you do know what they have done for us. Ms Macapagal fought every temptation to risk anything, and lived to make herself President. Both fought to push back the hands of time and tie us back to the apron strings of America. They have made us martyrs to their cause.

If the P200 bill, which will soon hit the streets, will serve any useful function, it is only to remind us of two things. One is that it is not only the Philippine peso that is being inflated, the ego of the Philippine President is so as well.

And two is that, alas, our money, like our lives, has been cheapened beyond repair.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

UP professors lament ODS import

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE FULL-PAGE statement in a newspaper yesterday by a group of UP physical and social scientists should be the ultimate endorsement for Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez as he faces the Commission on Appointments anew tomorrow. Obviously timing it to come out on the eve of Earth Day today, the UP professors pointed out that the Philippines scored big for future generations of Filipinos when it signed the Montreal Protocol that ruled the gradual phaseout of those harmful chemicals called Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), to be completed by 2010. For seriously complying with this international agreement, they note that the Philippines under the Ramos administration received a UN Award, but unfortunately, for "as little as a year of the Estrada administration," RP had a rise of 40 percent in ODS use. This unexplained rise, they stressed, leaves RP's representatives to the UN sustainable development conference later this year in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the "unsavory prospect" of having to apologize to the UN Community in spite of that award. "Only in the Philippines," they said.

* * *

Today, said the professors, corporate entities with money to back them up, that were involved with the import of those ODS are "on a public relations rampage" in order to justify their activities, support their cohorts in government and influence the politicians. The academics doubtless are referring to the few politicians in the commission who are trying to block the confirmation of Alvarez, in order to accommodate a colleague in the House, Rep. Plaridel Abaya, whose son, former Environment Management Bureau chief in the Erap administration, Peter Abaya, was responsible for this 40 percent rise in ODS importation during his watch. Alvarez has refused to act on Abaya's promotion to environment assistant secretary because of this importation and instead has initiated an investigation into his actuations. The "public relations rampage" that the UP professors are referring to must pertain to the stories coming out that make Alvarez look like the accused, instead of the accuser. Abaya has refused to meet the issue of the ODS importation head-on, despite the fact that he has already testified in his own defense no less than four times in the Commission on Appointments' environment committee hearings on Alvarez's confirmation.

The UP professors commend the Macapagal administration's stand that the rise in ODS use has to stop, but they also assert that those behind the rise in ODS must be made to answer for their actions "administratively and when applicable, criminally." This, they insist, is the only way to rectify what has happened and for us to face the international community again "with pride." I don't see how the members of the CA's environment committee, led by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. can ignore this statement from prestigious academic people in the State University.

* * *

One guy who chose to meet an issue head-on was Speaker Joe de Venecia on the subject of charter change, and his move not only has helped clear the air as far as his motives are concerned; it has also helped pave the way for an intelligent and intelligible national debate on charter change. Earlier he was accused of endorsing charter change because he wants to become prime minister in a parliamentary system—a way of entering the back door where he couldn't get in via the front door with his resounding defeat in the 1998 presidential elections.

At a press conference called for that purpose, De Venecia stated that he has "no personal agenda" in proposing charter change as he has "no more ambition for higher political office" as he won't be running for president in 2004. "I long for no office beyond the speakership." And even if constitutional amendments could be completed and ratified before 2004, said JDV, "I have absolutely no plan to seek the office of prime minister." He reiterated that his candidate for president for 2004 is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and that all he wants in his public career is to be "a good Speaker" who's remembered "for what little I can do to get this country moving again."

* * *

In that statement JDV echoes what his candidate for 2004 once said, that she doesn't care about being a "great President," she wants merely to be "a good President." The disavowal of higher ambitions makes him look more statesmanlike, an image he has projected abroad with more success than domestically. Even when he was out of power in the Estrada years, JDV successfully launched the conference of Asian Political Parties in Manila. I was in Mexico City late last year to cover the Christian Democrat International conference of Latin American countries and I saw how JDV moved with great ease among the foreign leaders whom he knew quite well. In his latest trip to Morocco in North Africa he met with the Moroccan king himself and the Speaker of Parliament, and later proceeded to Italy where Speaker of Parliament Casini tendered a luncheon for him. At this moment he is in China meeting with top leaders.

* * *

What's significant for the national debate is that JDV is advocating the election of delegates to a constitutional convention timed with the 2004 national elections, instead of convening Congress into a constituent assembly, which would be far easier for him to do. Moreover, he is advocating a transition period from 2004 to 2010, and to make the parliamentary shift instead by 2010 when the civil service, which will be the backbone of such system, should have been modernized, the economic and political reforms put in place with the adoption of President Macapagal's 19-point legislative agenda and a new breed of political leaders developed. Obviously, what JDV wants to make sure is that his *manok*, GMA, would be assured an election in 2004, something that's not assured if the parliamentary system is installed earlier.

Arlyn

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

THIS is a piece I wish I did not have to write. But like everyone else in this profession, where credibility practically determines one's life span professionally and otherwise, I am nagged by the question: How can a journalist lose so much credibility that people would even conclude that she "staged" her own kidnapping?

This, as I see it, is the real tragedy of TV reporter Arlyn dela Cruz, more than her alleged kidnapping, although being abducted and detained by the Abu Sayyaf, especially in the jungles of Sulu, is a fate one would not wish on one's worst enemies.

The speculations have been many. According to one version, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, who had earlier issued an order for her liquidation for having allegedly "swindled" them, changed his mind and had her abducted instead so that he could at least get money out of her.

This speculation gave rise to the story that Arlyn and Sabaya plotted her kidnapping and that they would split the ransom money.

That in a story published in the INQUIRER last April 8, which also featured Arlyn's letter to the media, INQ7.net sources were quoted as saying that the Moro National Liberation Front military integrees were responsible for her abduction.

In that same letter, Arlyn mentioned "*ang galit ng maraming sibilyan* (in Jolo) *sa* media," adding "*(A)lam nyo ba…kasama kayong…ipinagtatanggol ko dito?*" From what?

She also mentioned INQUIRER's Dennis Sabangan who she said saw for himself this "anger."

Why she mentioned that, and what it had to do with her abduction are not clear, but it is quite misleading in that it assumes that the people of Jolo are "*galit sa* media." This is rather untrue.

Dennis went to my place right after he and some other photographers and cameramen tried to take pictures of the scene—where only minutes earlier three Scout Rangers had been shot, disemboweled and decapitated—and gave a detailed account of how some people threateningly prevented them from getting near the site. The bloody incident had a long story behind it, which I believe Arlyn had not even begun to get the facts on, before she was abducted.

That was a highly charged atmosphere, which pervaded even until Dennis and the rest left Jolo. By the time Arlyn got here, however, emotions had settled and things were starting to return to normal. Even at its worst, not as much hostility was shown against the media as that displayed during the so-called "Edsa III" violence.

I am not privy to the nature of Arlyn's relationship with Sabaya, although it is public knowledge that her association with the Abu Sayyaf of Basilan is a long one, going as far back, according to a close friend of Arlyn, as the late Edwin Angeles, Abu Sayyaf co-founder, despite that provocative phone call from Khadaffy Janjalani which she reportedly reproduces in full in the book she is writing, provocatively titled "My affair with the Abu Sayyaf."

However, comments should also be made on Arlyn's charge that colleagues had accused her, judged her and crucified her, adding "(W)hat I don't understand is the hatred."

Living here in the fringes, I may not be entirely aware of what is going on among the media people that Arlyn moves around with, but I don't know of any among those I have been in touch with, who "hate" her, although most of them condemn some of her acts. And what are these?

Arlyn in her letter "confesses" to one "crime," that of being a "scoop-hungry reporter," because of which she says she "entered this mess."

Although one can agree with her that the mess she is in right now is of her own making, it is difficult to conclude that it is because of her being scoop-hungry. Doesn't every reporter who wants to make his or her mark always dream of that sensational scoop? That is not a crime, is it?

That is, if what happened when Arlyn got that "scoop" on the Sipadan hostages is anything to go by, for us to understand media's reaction to her alleged kidnapping. Maybe it is worthwhile to recall that incident, to the best of my knowledge.

Strictly speaking, that was not so much a scoop as a coup. Hers.

When it was confirmed that the Sipadan hostages were in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, Galib Andang a.k.a. Commmander Robot and the other leaders requested for a journalist to verify that they indeed had custody of the 11 European tourists and 10 Malaysian and Filipino resort workers abducted from Sipadan Island in Malaysia on April 23, two years ago tomorrow.

Presumably upon advice of their Basilan counterparts, the kidnappers submitted a list of three names, Arlyn among them. Then ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari had just been named chief government negotiator.

As soon as Arlyn learned about it, she reportedly approached Misuari, who was then at the Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City, offering to do the story and Misuari readily agreed.

Misuari needed to show that he was getting somewhere in his assigned task, and right away mobilized his staff to facilitate Arlyn's trip to Jolo and the Abu Sayyaf camp.

There was hardly any risk involved in the coverage, and in fact the Abu Sayyaf themselves belied Arlyn's reported account that she had been blindfolded throughout her trip to and from the hostages' camp.

What happened after that was far more risky, the kind of risk that only one with the guts of Arlyn dela Cruz could dare.

On Earth Day, one world or many nations?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

IDEAS sometimes take on a life of their own.

In fact, some ideas are so strong that they can jump from one brain to another. Take inventions like the wheel. The first man to think of using a wheel surely had many, immediate imitators, as the idea caught on like wildfire, in some long-forgotten age of primordial discovery and revolution. The point is, the idea of a wheel is probably a permanent resident of human brains because it is so useful an invention and a thing so essentially clever and right. The wheel is part of what is worth remembering and transmitting to the next generation.

The idea for Earth Day, which was first celebrated by 20 million Americans on April 22, 1970, also took on a life of its own after it was first suggested by US Sen. Gaylord Nelson (Democrat, Wisconsin). Complete with nationwide teach-ins and demonstrations in support of environmental causes, the first Earth Day is the official birthday of the modern environmental movement. Two billion human brains will celebrate Earth Day today, just to demonstrate the operation of a highly infectious idea such as cherishing the life of the Earth, also called common sense.

But there are even stronger, more ancient kinds of ideas than utilitarian inventions and political advocacies. Some ideas, like love and hate, war and peace, have long occupied opposing camps among the minds of men. Such mutually antagonistic ideas seek to gain advantage and territory against each other through the agency of human culture and communication. Arranging to be propagated and reproduced in books, newspapers, television, computers, schools and even conferences, they compete in a never-ending struggle for human hearts and minds.

The very grandest of ideas, like science and religion, like democracy and communism, like good and evil, are really huge complexes of interconnected ideas, empires of wheels within wheels, in enduring combat. Each grand idea enlists battalions and regiments of historians, philosophers, propagandists, teachers, artists, writers, politicians, judges, priests and scientists to do battle with the antagonistic forces similarly enlisted by its competitors. Their labors and endeavors stamp and mold every age of man with the marks of intellectual combat.

They take on not only a life of their own, but an actual history, expressed in durable institutions like schools, churches, governments and republics, and of course, sciences and religions, that survive each generation of human beings. The millions that espouse and embody them reliably transmit the ideas to other human beings and to the next generation, thus guaranteeing their continued survival in the existing population of human brains, almost as a life-form in their own right.

This somewhat strange perspective is that of the Oxford zoologist, Richard Dawkins, (author of modern classics like "The Selfish Gene" and "The Blind Watchmaker") who first suggested a Darwinian biology for ideas. He coined the term "memes" (rhymes with "themes" but means much more) to refer to species of self-propagating ideas, that act very much like genes. Dawkins' memes, like genes, are at perpetual war in a survival of the fittest. The strongest ideas get to survive into the next generation of men, in a kind of natural selection for philosophy and ideology and truth.

A Darwinian approach to history has this one very great attraction for me. It says, we should adopt the social, political and economic systems that are proven to work best, "the fittest" in the long and bloody practice of nations fighting to thrive and survive, without historical resentments and other emotional baggage to cloud our judgment. Darwinian competition weeds out the weak conceptions and inferior strategies for adoption by human communities.

Take the 20th century. What we saw played out was a titanic war of the memes, both literally and figuratively, involving democracy, fascism and communism. During this span of history, different human societies embarked on social experiments inspired by these three antagonists, which led to world wars, hot and cold, and deadly competition for many generations.

For whatever reason, something called liberal democracy survived that contest among world orders, and has become the model and the goal of most progressive nations, in the economic, political and constitutional realms. Even deadly enemies like the Israelis and the Palestinians agree on democracy as the goal. So do Americans and Russians and Chinese and most of the world, including former foes and enemies. So do Filipinos, except for one or two like Joma, who cannot accept the evolutionary cul-de-sac and psychological dead end of a discredited ideology. So there are fossils too and extinct species in Dawkins' biology of ideas.

As for the 21st century, it is of abiding interest to all thinking persons to discern what new competitions will mark the coming era. What grand ideas are doing battle right now for human hearts and minds to define the age in which we all shall live and die?

For me, I think it is the ongoing clash between nationalism and globalism, between the gravitational pull to create one world, and the centrifugal forces dividing our many nations, cultures and creeds. I believe that from that struggle will emerge this century's grand new idea to inspire the generations and galvanize a century.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Offensive comic strip

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE COMIC section of the INQUIRER is meant to give the readers a break from the heavy load of news and articles that the other pages of the newspaper carry.

Often, the comic strips contain messages that touch on the significant issues of the day. It takes a lot of genius to come up with sketches that can make the readers laugh or smile, and at the same time express the cartoonist's thoughts on the subject of the strip.

Some readers go directly to the "Comic Relief" page, as this section is described, to put them in a good mood before they read the front page. Like wanting to hear the good news first before the bad news.

Unfortunately, a comic strip in the April 11 issue of the newspaper did not live up to its intended objective. It turned off instead lawyer Barbara Aleli Briones of Quezon City.

She wrote: "I write to formally complain about the utterly disgusting comic strip that appeared in 'Mikrokosmos' by Jomike Toledo in today's issue of PDI. The strip shows a fly landing on a fecal matter which then kissed a fellow fly with the quote 'Guess where I came from dear.'

"Kindly inform your comic strip editor that a modicum of good taste should be observed as not all Filipinos are fond of toilet humor. Frankly, the comic strip made me gag as I saw it after I took my lunch."

Upon receipt of the letter, I took a close look at the offending comic strip. I felt the same way the reader did. I am not surprised it made her retch when she saw it because it precisely invited that kind of reaction. I am sorry for the unpleasant experience she went through.

The comic strip was not funny. Worse, it was offensive to the senses. Whichever way one looked at it, there was simply no humor in it.

The INQUIRER apologizes for the publication of the comic strip. It regrets whatever inconvenience it may have caused the readers. The matter has been brought to the attention of the editorial staff for the appropriate remedial measures.

Sensitive headline

Last April 10, the front page of the newspaper carried the news about Singaporean teenagers being spoiled by the wealth of their country. It bore the headline "Let Pinay maids to the work."

Reader Lita Puyat squirmed at seeing the word "Pinay" in the headline. She asked, "How come this was the headline of the Associated Press article about spoiled Singaporean teenagers? I read the article and it is more of a sociological observation about how these young girls need to be more self-reliant, having been spoiled by their wealthy parents in a nation going from 'third to first world in one generation.'

"Nowhere else in the article were 'Pinay maids' mentioned save for one sentence in the beginning of the article. The headline is inappropriate and biased. Furthermore, the use of a caricature is not exactly amusing either.

"Why don't you feature an in-depth article on the other side, interviewing some of these Pinay maids abroad? Or is that too much work compared to reprinting an AP article and slapping some catchy headline?"

The editor in chief admitted that the article did not focus on Filipina domestic helpers; it also covered those coming from other Asian countries. She used "Pinay" in the headline to give the news some local color, something that will make the readers realize that many of the people referred to in the report as involved in the spoiling process are our countrymen.

She said there was no intention on her part to denigrate the Singapore-based Filipino domestic helpers. She has nothing but praises for the sacrifices these women have to undergo to be able to provide for the financial needs of their families.

With regard to the reader's suggestion to conduct an in-depth study of the Filipino domestic helpers, she said the INQUIRER has already made several investigative reports on that subject in the past.

In my opinion, the use of the word "Pinay" in the complained headline was not malicious. While it is true Filipino domestic helpers were not the principal subject of the article, the reference to them in the headline may be considered a journalistic style that was meant to invite the reader's attention to the news.

Like the reader, I feel sad about our Filipino women acting as nannies to some spoiled brats in Singapore and elsewhere in the world. But it is a reality that we have to live with considering the dearth of employment opportunities in our country.

I empathize with the pain the reader suffered after reading the news. She can rest assured though that the newspaper would not intentionally add to the humiliation that our countrymen go through in foreign countries in their effort to put food on their families' table.

Another error

Two errors in the article about the new P200 bill that will feature President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ("Gloria, father in new P200 bill"), which came out in the April 15 issue of the INQUIRER, drew several phoned-in complaints and letters.

In her letter to the newspaper, reader Marhielle Mamangun noted the errors in the following sentences:

- "The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the obverse of the new peso bill would bear the face of the late Macapagal while the reverse would feature **her** daughter taking her oath as the 14th president of the Republic of the Philippines."
- "He pointed out that the late Macapagal was the one responsible for changing the date of the country's independence to June 12, the day Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite, in **1998** during the Philippine Revolution."

These are the kind of errors that make proofreaders and editors squirm in utter embarrassment. How these mistakes were able to worm their way into the news report in spite of the proofreading procedures put in place is a big puzzler.

Whatever may be the reason for the boo-boos, apologies are clearly in order for the two glaring errors in the news report on the forthcoming P200 bill. *Mea culpa.*

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Ang explains role as PR consultant

YOUR editorial "Perfect fit" (PDI, 4/17/02) makes two points.

The first is that the "fast and almost furious changes" in the Office of the Press Secretary and the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson were due to my "pervasive presence" at the OPS.

The second—and perhaps the more important one—is the portrayal of the President as a "Nora look-alike" or as "Ate Glo" and "Ina ng Bayan."

On the first point, I don't think you'll believe me—and I don't care—but I have not meddled in the work of Secretary Noel Cabrera or Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao. All you have to do is ask them. Did you?

I work directly with the President. Our relationship is strictly professional. I advise her on public relations concerns and communications problems and if she approves my ideas, I execute them. Nothing more, nothing less.

She appointed me consultant for public relations because she thinks that I should be at her beck and call all the time. For this reason, I gave up my day to day involvement in my company and its publications.

On the other point, your own fact-checker will tell you that the "Ate Glo" label came from the press. It was a perfect title for the President. I wish I could claim credit for the tag.

There was also nothing sinister in making the President look like Nora Aunor during the 1998 vice presidential election because she does look like the award-winning actress.

The Ina ng Bayan concept is based on the concept of the extended family—a very Filipino institution. As members of the family, we look after each other, we listen to each other and we look up to our elders for guidance and care. The President as everybody's mother, provides the symbol of a nurturing, caring and protective parent.

Which brings me to my idea of communication. Running a government is not only delivering ceremonial speeches, presiding at Cabinet meetings, making state visits or guiding sessions on policy.

As national leader, the President brings the government closer to the masses, brings the people closer together, conducts daily dialogue with the public and articulates the national interest in global meetings.

Communication performs a vital function because it is also letting the ordinary person know what the leader is doing for the people and conveying the message with the appropriate symbols, images and institutions that he or she values.

This requires that the President become all things to the people, speak the language of the *masa* and explain the bureaucratic policies of government in a manner the people understand best.

Admittedly the message, if carried on TV or radio, has to be tightly compressed, but it must be honest and emotional.

Is this a "cheapening of the presidency and the idiotization [is there such a word in the dictionary?] of the Filipino"?

I don't think so. It is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's way of being President of all the people.

—DANTE A. ANG

Breach of 'delicadeza'

IN AN INTERVIEW about a year ago, Chief Justice Hilario J. Davide Jr. was asked if he planned to continue practicing law after he retires from the judiciary. I distinctly remember that his answer was that he would not. He explained that he feared the situation wherein the court in which he would litigate cases would be placed in a very uneasy position, if not, in a quandary. Moreover, he said, his victory would always be suspect. People could verily say that he won because of his previous position in the judiciary.

The answer of Davide was not meant to undermine the credibility and integrity of his colleagues in the judiciary. Neither was it an underestimation of his legal skills. It merely underscores the high premium of *delicadeza* in public service.

In total contrast is Renato Corona's appointment to the Supreme Court by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. When Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. raised an issue to Corona's appointment, I don't think he was questioning the latter's qualifications. For who could ever raise any doubt about such an impeccable record? I don't think he was questioning the legality of the appointment either.

I surmise, Pimentel was merely pointing out that when the President of the country appoints her former trusted aide and chief of staff, there is indeed a cause for alarm. For this is no different from Ferdinand Marcos appointing his wife in his Cabinet. Or Erap appointing his close friends in sensitive government positions thereby creating the infamous "midnight cabinet."

Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao is correct to say that President Macapagal did not violate any rule or law when she appointed Corona to the Supreme Court. But from whatever angle you look at it, there is quite blatantly a breach of the unwritten and noble ethical principle of *delicadeza*.

—MH YUSINGCO, Chrysanthemum Street, Greenland Village, Cainta, Rizal

Noise abatement measures in Naia

THIS letter is in response to the column of retired Justice Isagani A. Cruz last April 7, 2002, titled "Arrogance from the skies."

I would like to take exception to the claim that our office is indifferent to the plight of Merville Subdivision residents and that the Air Transportation Office allows airlines to do as they please in the matter of noise and air pollution. Time and again the ATO has maintained its position to balance the welfare and interest of subdivision residents, airlines and the national interest. Noise abatement procedures are in place. Aircraft have prescribed noise abatement procedures after taking off specifically from Runway 13 which passes directly over the Merville area. Hush kits were retrofitted in the engines of aircraft to make them stage-three compliant. The airlines have agreed to fast-track their compliance to 2004 instead of the 2006 deadline set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UN aviation agency that sets standards for worldwide aviation.

The ATO does not own the runway. It is the Manila International Airport Authority that has jurisdiction over the utilization of Runways 13/31 and 24/06 and all terminal areas and surrounding properties.

The construction of Terminal III necessitates the use of Runway 13. The ATO has done its regulatory function as required by ICAO. Maybe it is high time complaints are directed to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Lastly, with the opening of Terminal III in December, air traffic will be at its peak within the Naia aerodrome area, necessitating maximum use of Runway 13 by foreign airlines.

—ADELBERTO F. YAP, assistant secretary, Air Transportation Office, Department of Transportation and Communications, MIA Road corner Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City

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IPAGTANGGOL ANG KALIKASAN ALAGAAN ANG KAPALIGIRAN PARA SA IKAUUNLAD NG SAMBAYANAN

Marking Earth Day 2002

THIS year, the international celebration of Earth Day will mark its year—in the Philippines—and will be observed in 184 countries around the world with the participation of more than 500 million people.

On April 4, 1990, the Philippines joined the community of nations in celebrating International Earth Week and International Earth Day through the adoption of Senate Resolution 97, which I authored as senator, declaring April 22 of each year as Earth Day.

Earth Day 2002 is made even more significant as it calls on all of us to save Mother Earth with its international theme, "Protect Our Home."

During the entire month of April, the Philippines formally joined the international community in celebrating Earth Day 2002 beginning with the launching of Earth Day Week in Batangas City from April 16 to 22 led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet

Today, the Macapagal administration will rally the entire Filipino nation in a global campaign to protect Mother Earth in a whole-day simultaneous Earth Day celebration at the Palace grounds, beginning with a flag-raising ceremony at 6:30 a.m., up to 6 p.m., and at the Makati Park and Garden in Makati City from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Highlight of the event is a concelebrated ecological Thanksgiving Mass in Malacañang at 7 a.m. and the unveiling of the Eco-Waste Kabuhayan Exhibit showcasing recycled livelihood products.

Department of Natural Resources employees and various sectors of society will simultaneously conduct a motorcade at 8 a.m. from the DENR office in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City to the Makati Park and Garden in Makati City where they will be met by Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto S. Mercado and United Nations Development Program resident representative Terence D. Jones

The "Kabuhayan sa Kalikasan Exhibits" will also be formally opened while workshops that will proceed in the afternoon on: (1) Ecological solid waste management; (2) Coastal and marine resources management; (3) The significance of 2002 as International Year of the Mountains; (4) "Lakas ng Kalikasan" program; (5) The Clean Air Act; (6) Climate change; and (7) The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Sectoral representatives will be presenting pledges for the protection of Mother Earth with a ceremonial lighting of candles, with me reading the pledges.

This year's celebration underscores everyone's right to use this home we call Earth and the responsibility to sustainably preserve it.

We need the support and active participation of all sectors of society, the media and the general public in advocating for the conservation of the environment, for the protection of Mother Earth—our only home.

—HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Hesitant to use the word 'pedophile'?

FR. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J., in his column, "Protecting the flock," mentioned the Church-shaking predator priests cases of court convictions in the United States as only "sexual predations." The amazing thing is that he never mentioned the word "pedophile"! How do you protect people from pedophiles without mentioning the word? Another priest, Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, on the very same day, managed the same feat in the column, "Burning issue." He, like Father Bernas, avoided the word "pedophile," and both never mentioned reporting cases to the police as a burning issue.

Father Bernas claimed that "a group of Filipino lawyers had gone to the US to look into the legalities and opportunities." And that suits for damages are understandable as "...Church institutions are seen as 'deep pocket(s)'." You are wrong, dear Father! Many victims only sought an apology, Some refused payment! The law provides for medical costs for mental damage, and it's not a crime to win damages. It is a crime to conceal one. This is like the old deep throat excuses from Australia as convictions and damages grew years ago, but not much against Protestant churches. So, why, dear Father, is it for Catholic churches?

Let us protect the children with answers.

—EARL K. WILKINSON, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B

MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS AND THE PUBLIC AUCTION THEREOF

WHEREAS, the herein described items/goods were separately imported on various dates at the Manila International Container Port, which up to the present no Customs Import Entry has been filed thereon respectively, or if such Entry has been filed, no claim/adjudication was made thereto by their respective consignee/Importer, or such rightful claimant within the period fixed by Law, to wit:

REG. NO.	ARRIVAL	CONSIGNEE	CONTR. NO.	DESCRIPTION
WHL-026-01	6/15/01	Ibañez Motor Parts	TPHU-5320614	2 units used Chevy van
	7/30/00	Mr. Draga Novakovic	GLDU-0289466	1 unit Mercedes Benz 280S, RHD, used
	2/13/00	Pacific Eagle	TRIU-5308956	2 units Volvo & saab-used
GSI-051-01	7/02/01	Angel Badillo Jr.	TEXU-2434366	1 unit used Plymouth van
BL No. MISC27300108450		Sagawa Express Phils.	TEXU-3851385	1 unit used Mercedes Benz 500SE
TMA-079-01	5/20/01	Tenorio Tangga	AKLU-2081915	1 unit used van, 1 unit 2 dr.
FJS-061-01	4/6/01	Office of the Gov.	CAXU-9735480	1 unit used RHD T-van ambulance
MSL-079-00	7/16/01	American Embassy	CAXU-2989306	1 unit used Subaru, silver
Cosco	7/20/99	Peter Johnson	TRIU-0602320	1 unit used Camper van
OOCL	12/08/01	A.G. Visual	OOLU-3185688	2 units used Volkswagen

Whereas, the failure of the consignee/importer and such other rightful claimant to claim/adjudicate his/her importation shall be deemed to be a renunciation of his/her interests and property rights in favor of the government, pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended by Republic Act 7651, and be auctioned after ten (10) days from the date of posting/advertisement.

SO ORDERED.

Manila International Container Port, Manila, Philippines, this 19th day of April 2002.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLARUZ
District Collector of Customs

April 22, 2002 – Inquirer

Beach resort no front for stolen artifacts

WE write on behalf of our client, Jim Goll, who was the subject of a news article titled, "Stolen artifacts seized at resort" by Philip C. Tubeza. (PDI, 3/21/02) To avoid any misimpression or undeserved public scorn, our client wishes to clarify, as follows:

Contrary to reports quoting NBI Interpol Chief Ricardo Diaz, Goll is not aware of, nor has he received, any subpoena or complaint from the Department of Justice charging him with the "violation of National Treasures Law, which carries a penalty of two years' imprisonment," as a result of the search conducted by National Bureau of Investigation agents on March 2. In fact, the records section of the DOJ confirms that he has no pending criminal case.

It is not true that the NBI "searched [Goll's] beach resort after receiving reports from the National Museum that he was using it as a front to retrieve treasures from a nearby sunken galleon." Records of the Imus, Cavite court show that the application for warrants to search the beach resort and Goll's residence was instigated by some persons who have personal but a baseless ax to grind against Goll. Certainly, there was no document showing that the National Museum confirmed that the beach resort is being used as a front of something illegal.

The allegation that Goll "rented out diving equipment to his customers but then secretly used the equipment to dive for treasures from the galleon" is pure canard. So is the reference that Goll "sold the artifacts to dealers abroad." Court records reveal that these imputations are based merely on guesswork, conjectures and speculations. Goll emphatically denies these to be most unfair and foul.

Goll explains that Steve Morgan and Tony Peñalosa asked him to store some artifacts that they had salvaged from a sunken ship somewhere near Culion Island. To his honest belief, Morgan has permits from the Philippine government, while Peñalosa is himself from the National Museum. They initimated to Goll that they needed to store the artifacts in a safe place until they could be transported to the National Museum. With their assurance that everything was aboveboard, Goll agreed to secure the area where the artifacts were to be displayed. Most importantly, an explanation crediting the ownership of the artifacts to the National Museum was posted at the same place. Thousands of people including foreigners were delighted to see the artifacts. They were grateful for the National Museum's efforts to display them in public. To be sure, at no time did Goll claim ownership of, much less exercised any acts of disposition, over the artifacts.

At this time when our government fortifies its bid to boost foreign investments and tourism, in light of unsavory reports of terrorism, kidnapping and other criminal activities, it will do our enforcement agencies well to be thoroughly impartial and circumspect in the discharge of their functions. In the same manner, depicting the beach resort in your news article as a smoke screen for criminal conduct undermines the government's program. Goll has been in the Philippines for so many years now without having been convicted of, or penalized for, any offense. Undoubtedly, he has, like other law-abiding foreigners, contributed to the promotion of our noble aspirations as a nation.

—FERDINAND M. HIDALGO, NOEL B. LAZARO, Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako Law Offices, 4th and 6th Floors, Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Lina on wrong impressions

THIS refers to the April 16, 2002 column of Neal H. Cruz, titled "Make Joey Lina implement Lina Law completely."

While I respect Cruz's opinion and wholeheartedly take his comments as a challenge toward the effective implementation of Republic Act 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992, allow me to correct and comment on some of his points.

First, there is absolutely nothing in RA 7279 which requires the payment of a "disturbance fee" prior to the eviction of the squatters. I have made this very, very clear on several occasions in the past—through public affairs programs on TV where Cruz and I were guests, in the Kapihan sa Maynila forum and in letters to the editor and newspapers.

I emphasize this to erase the wrong impression that was probably created by Cruz's assertion about the so-called "disturbance fee." Again, there is no disturbance fee required to eject squatters under RA 7279.

Second, the province of Laguna, during my incumbency as governor, faithfully implemented the UDHA. In fact, under the provincial government's lot and house and lot programs, some 16 housing projects covering 248,072.30 square meters were completed, thus providing land and shelter to some 3,343 families/beneficiaries.

Lastly, while I am tempted to comment on Cruz's claim about my performance as interior secretary, I will leave the judgment to the public whom I have sworn to serve as a member of the President's Cabinet. I just wish Cruz got hold of the Awareness and Performance Ratings Survey conducted by Pulse Asia last Dec. 2-19, 2001, where I ranked fourth among fellow Cabinet members.

—JOSE D. LINA JR., secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government, A Francisco Gold Condominium II, Edsa corner Mapagmahal St., Diliman, QC

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World finance officials widen terror blacklist

WASHINGTON—European and Japanese officials on Saturday joined the United States in lengthening a list of people and groups whose assets are to be frozen because of suspected links to terrorism.

"We remain strongly committed to combating the financing of terrorism and we take note of the progress made in implementing our previous action plans," finance officials from the Group of Seven rich nations said in a communique issued just after their meeting here.

"As a further and positive step forward in the war on terrorist financing, the G7 finance ministers announced the first G7 joint designation of terrorist entities and the associated freezing of assets in the G7 countries," the group said in a statement.

The decision by European and Japanese officials to add to their asset-freezing blacklists provided a show of unity on efforts to crack down on individuals and groups who fund terrorist activities.

The campaign against terror financing was launched after the Sept. 11 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The United States unveiled its list of the 10 new targets on Friday, and their counterparts in Europe and Japan quickly signed on.

The coordination on the 10 names comes a week after US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill toured European countries in an effort to drum up more support for the anti-terrorism efforts.

US officials had pressed Europeans to more speedily identify groups and individuals as potential suspects. European officials have preferred to wait until the United Nations has identified individuals or groups before taking action to freeze their assets.

All groups on the latest list have ties to either Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born militant the U.S. has linked to the Sept. 11 attacks, or to bin Laden's al-Qaida network, according to Treasury.

The broadened terror-financing list includes the Aid Organization of the Ulema, which the US Treasury Department said was a new name for an organization called the al Rashid Trust that showed up on an earlier blacklist.

One individual added was Abu Hamza al-Masri. According to Treasury, he identified himself as the legal officer for the Islamic Army of Aden, which claimed responsibility for the October 2000 bombing of the destroyer USS Cole ship in Yemen that killed 17 Americans.

Another individual was Abdelkadir Mahmoud Es Sayed, thought to be the organizer for al-Qaida's cell in Milan, Italy. He was convicted in Egypt for the massacre at Luxor that claimed 58 foreign tourists as casualties.

Putting an added spotlight on the concerns about activities by groups such as al-Qaida, the FBI on Friday said the US government has received "unsubstantiated information" that "unspecified terrorists" are considering physical attacks against US financial institutions. *Reuters*

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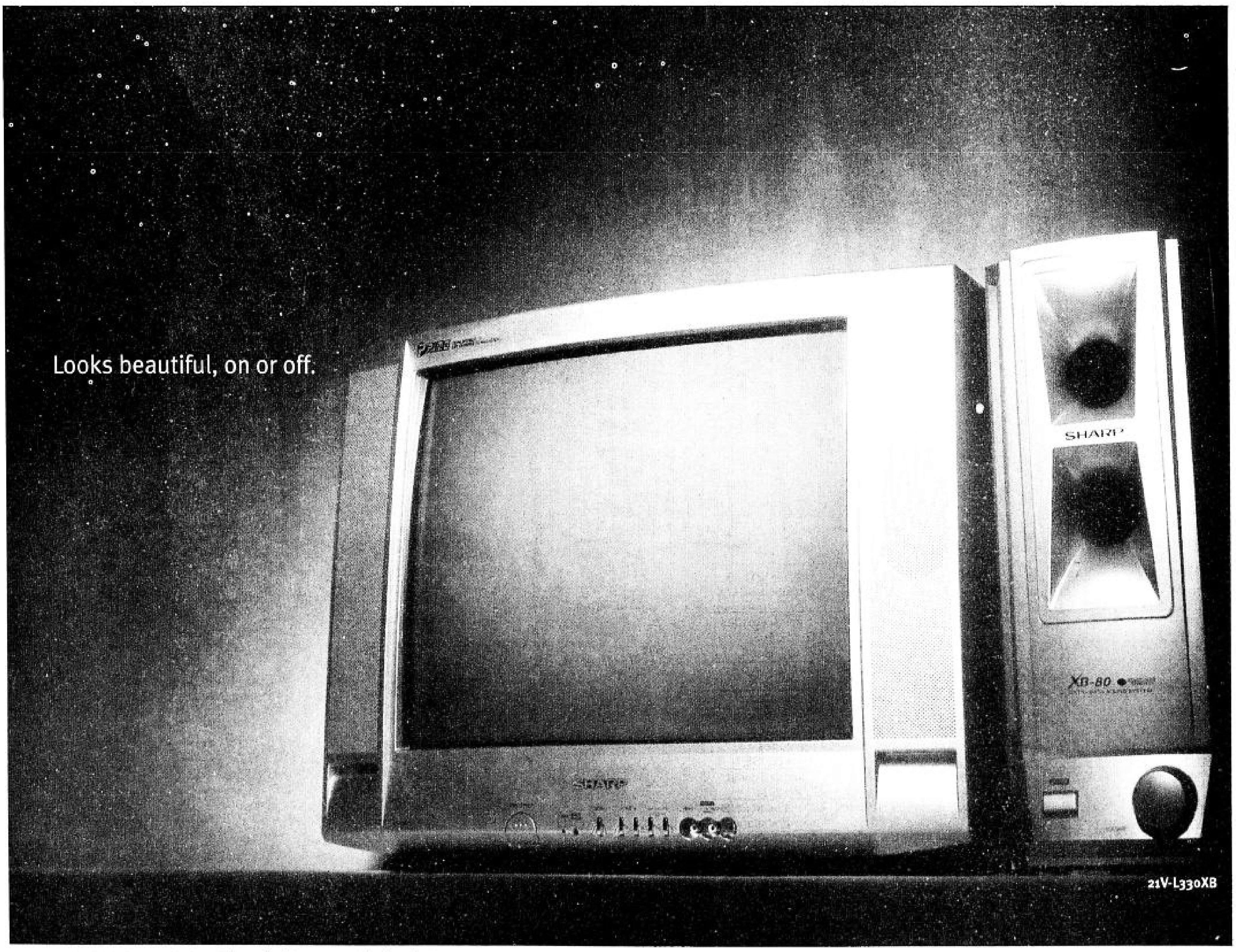

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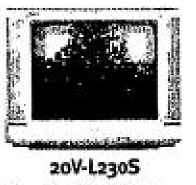

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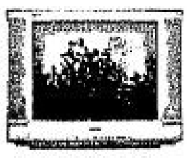

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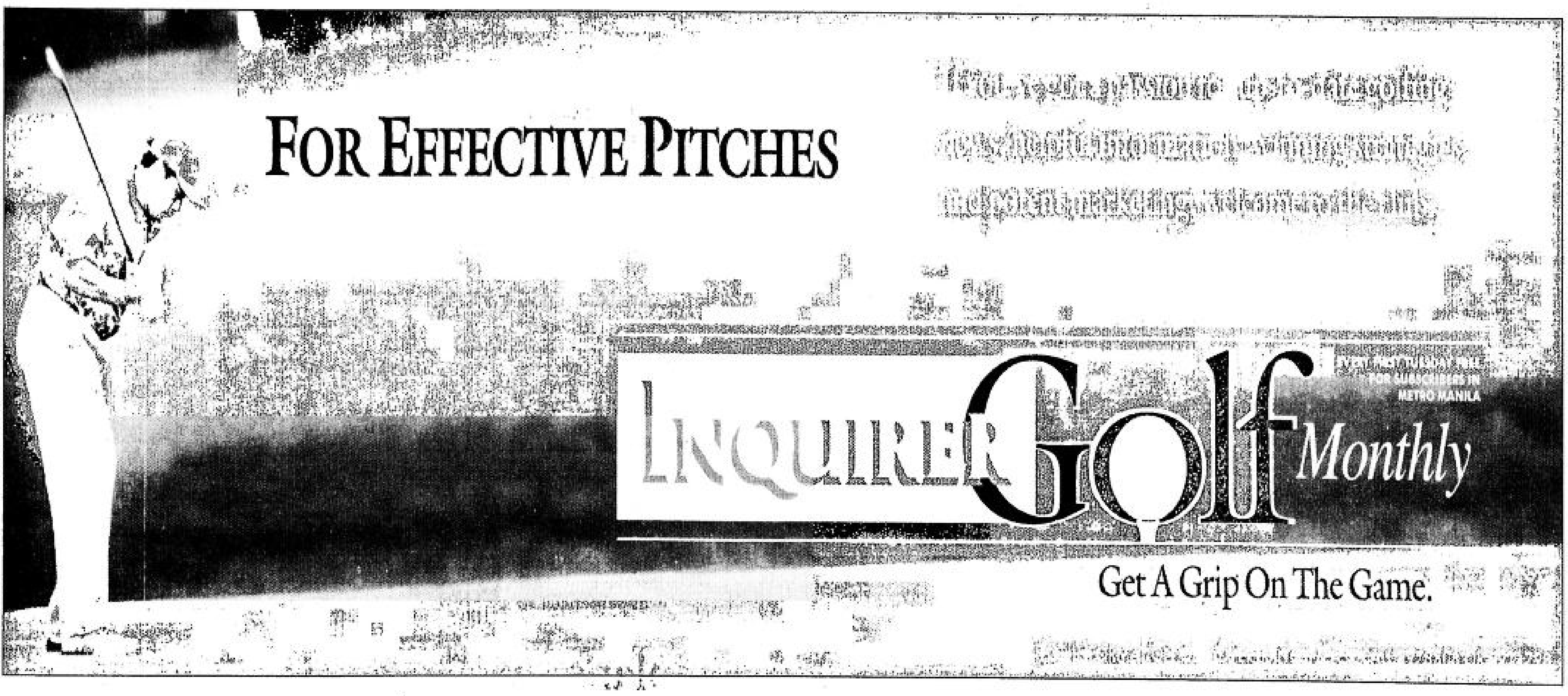
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Pope firm on clergy celibacy

VATICAN CITY—In a strong message days before a summit of US churchmen on a sex abuse scandal, Pope John Paul II said Saturday that priests must live celibate lives and avoid scandalous behavior. Bishops, he said, must investigate such behavior and take action to end it.

In comments to Nigerian bishops, the Pope didn't directly refer to the scandal rocking the American Church. But the timing of his message appeared to be a clear signal of his position going into the summit and a firm policy statement that he doesn't tolerate the type of behavior shown by some American churchmen.

The scandals, in which several priests have been accused of abusing children and teenagers, have shaken confidence in the American Church, cost it millions of dollars in settlements and raised questions about bishops' mishandling of the investigations.

The pope summoned the 13 American cardinals to a summit Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the matter—an extraordinary measure that has underscored the urgency that the Vatican now appears to feel is necessary to deal with the issue.

In his comments to the Nigerians, the pope didn't refer to sex offenders or pedophilia, focusing on the broader issue of the need for priests to live a life of poverty and celibacy.

The Vatican has spoken out about problems in the African Church of priests breaking their vow of celibacy and having relations with women.

"The value of celibacy as a complete gift of self to the Lord and his Church must be carefully safeguarded," John Paul told the Nigerians.

"Behavior which might give scandal must be carefully avoided, and you yourselves must diligently investigate accusations of any such behavior, taking firm steps to correct it where it is found to exist," he said.

The comments were John Paul's most extensive remarks about celibacy since the revelations of sex abuse began pouring out in the United States earlier this year. He broke his long silence in a pre-Easter letter to priests last month, decrying the scandal caused by some.

In the meetings this week, the cardinals will be looking to the Vatican for guidance and backing on a wide range of issues, foremost among them whether the church should ever consider reassigning sex offenders and creating a uniform American policy for reporting abuse claims to police.

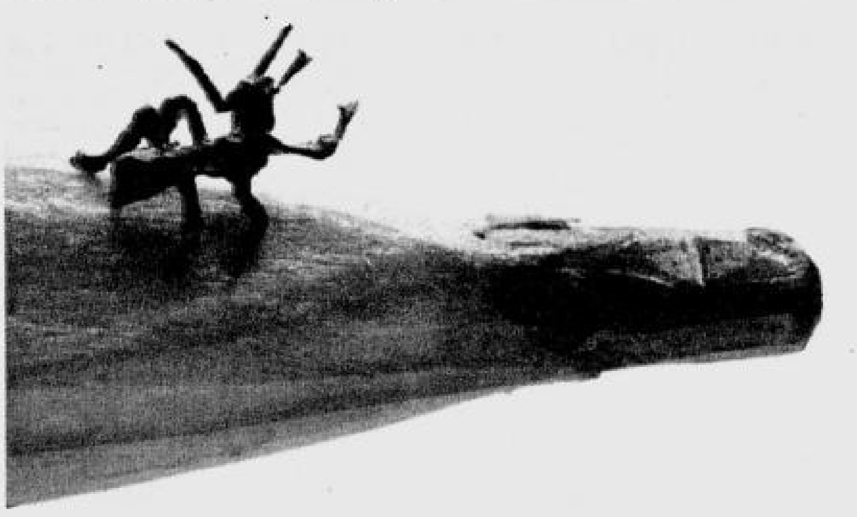
In the United States, the Church is accused of covering up misconduct by priests, in some cases by moving known abusers from job to job.

Cardinal Bernard Law, head of the Boston archdiocese, has faced growing criticism since acknowledging he transferred a priest to another parish despite knowing of sexual misconduct allegations against the man. That defrocked priest later was sentenced to prison.

AP

THREE young girls march as a large "street puppet" looms to the rear as tens of thousands of protesters march to the US capitol.

AFP



MINIATURE ART

REUTERS

A four-millimeter ant figure sculptured from resin sits perched on the tip of a pencil in Taipei April 21. Taiwan miniature artist Chen Frong-shean took ten days to complete this latest work.

Malaysia plans public flogging for incest, rape

KUALA LUMPUR—Faced with a sharp rise in sex crimes, mostly Muslim Malaysia plans to publicly flog those found guilty of incest and rape, the New Sunday Times said.

The prime minister's office and the attorney general's department were expected to seek quick cabinet approval for the move, the newspaper said.

"I will push as soon as possible the paper for consideration and very likely, it will be done next month," Rais Yatim, minister for legal affairs in the prime minister's office, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Currently, sexual intercourse between people who can't marry by law, religion or custom is punishable by whipping, but public flogging is not allowed.

Reuters

Tens of thousands hold protest in US capital

WASHINGTON—Chanting, singing and beating drums, tens of thousands of protesters converged on the US capital on Saturday to demonstrate against the US-led war on terror, Israeli military actions in the West Bank and globalization.

Washington Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey unofficially estimated there were between 35,000 and 50,000 demonstrators, the force's press office said, while organizers put the figure at above 50,000, perhaps as high as 70,000.

Unlike in previous years when globalization opponents clashed with police, protesters were peaceful as they gathered in front of the White House and elsewhere in the city amid a heavy police presence.

The diverse groups later joined ranks for a mass march down Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue to the US Capitol, waving flags, posters and street puppets, and chanting. "Down, down Israel," was one refrain.

"I think it is a tremendous success. So many different people from all over the place stood together in solidarity," said Roxanne Lawson, a national coordinator for United We March, one of the main organizers of the day's events.

Reuters

The family spending P50 a day on their vacation is on the plane!

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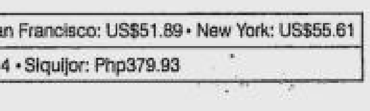

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Koizumi visits war shrine, angers China

BEIJING—China protested on Sunday a surprise visit by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to a Tokyo war shrine that also remembers convicted war criminals.

"The Chinese side resolutely opposes Japanese leaders paying homage to the Yasukuni shrine in any form and at any time," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said in a statement.

"The Japanese action can only damage the Japanese image itself and that makes it more difficult for Japan to win Asian peoples' trust on historical problems," she said.

Koizumi's visit, early on Sunday, followed one he made to the Yasukuni shrine last August which drew sharp criticism from Chinese state media and sparked small demonstrations outside the Japanese embassy in Beijing and Tokyo's consuldte in Shanghai.

That visit, the first by a prime minister in five years to the shrine, also spurred furious protests in other Asian countries invaded by Japan before and during World War Two.

The Tokyo shrine, a symbol of Japan's wartime imperialism, honors 2.5 million war dead including 14 designated as Class A criminals by the Allies in the trials that followed World War II.

Asian countries are fiercely critical of Japan's attitude toward its wartime history, including the content of some school history textbooks that critics say whitewash its aggression.

Koizumi's visit to the shrine on Sunday comes days after he attended an economic forum on the island of Hainan in southern China where he promoted free trade pacts in the region.

The visit also comes ahead of events expected in September to mark the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Tokyo and Beijing in 1972 and a scheduled visit by Koizumi to China that same month.

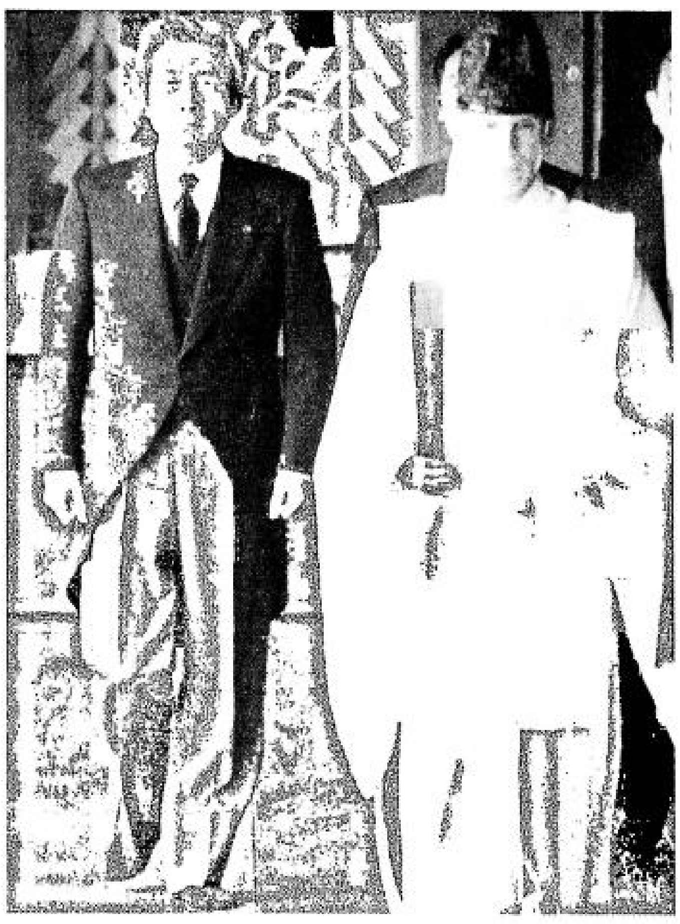
China has in recent days expressed fears that Japan is chipping away at its pacifist constitution, as Koizumi pushes through legislation to free up domestic military operations.

Beijing says the law is aimed at expanding Japan's military role.

The timing and quiet nature of this year's visit to the shrine, made in the early morning and with no fanfare, are likely aimed at trying to preserve ties with China and South Korea, Japan's soccer World Cup co-host.

"Visiting the Yasukuni Shrine was to express my respect and gratitude for those who had sacrificed their lives for the country," Koizumi told reporters after the visit. Koizumi argued Sunday's visit aimed to avoid upsetting Japan's neighboring countries.

"It is not my intention to generate anxiety and caution again among people at home and overseas by making a shrine visit on the anniversary of the end of World War II or around the day," he said in a statement issued after the visit. ***Reuters, AFP***



KOIZUMI being led by a Shinto priest as he visits the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo April 21. The shrine commemorates convicted war criminals, along with Japan's war dead. REUTERS/KYODO

'Friendly fire' victims return home

TRENTON, Ontario—The bodies of four Canadian soldiers killed by a US bomb in Afghanistan were returned home on Saturday in a somber ceremony attended by Prime Minister Jean Chretien and other dignitaries.

Under threatening skies, a lumbering air force plane touched down at a Canadian Forces Base here carrying the bodies of the soldiers killed accidentally by "friendly fire" from a US warplane in Afghanistan on Thursday.

"When something like this happens it really strikes a cord," said Capt. Paul Ducette.

The bodies were met by a guard of honor that marched slowly to haunting pipe music as Defense Minister Art Eggleton and other dignitaries looked on.

The dead soldiers were transferred to hearses and will be taken to a coroners' office in Toronto for medical examination before being released to their families.

Military officials said no US dignitaries or soldiers were present at Trenton.

The death of the soldiers has shocked and angered Canadians as the nation searches for answers as to how an accident of this magnitude could have occurred in a theater of high-tech warfare.

Sgt. Marc Leger, Cpl. Aineworth Dyer, Pvt. Richard Green, and Pvt. Nathan Smith—all members of the Third Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry—were killed on Thursday when a US F-16 mistakenly dropped a 228-kg bomb on Canadian troops engaged in a training exercise in Afghanistan. ***Reuters***

Pilot in Milan crash 'desperate' over money troubles

ROME—The pilot of the small aircraft that plowed into a Milan office tower was "desperate" over his finances because he apparently had been swindled out of 1.75 million euros ($1.54 million) by an associate, police and news reports said Saturday.

Police suggested that pilot Luigi Fasulo's desperation could have led him to commit suicide—one of the theories being pursued as investigators try to determine the cause of Thursday's crash.

The crash killed Fasulo and two regional government lawyers who worked in the landmark Pirelli tower in downtown Milan, and at the time raised fears of another terrorist attack similar to Sept. 11.

Italian authorities have ruled out terrorism, but say they can't exclude that the crash in the heart of Italy's financial center was deliberate, considering the plane slammed directly into the center of the building and that Fasulo was an experienced pilot.

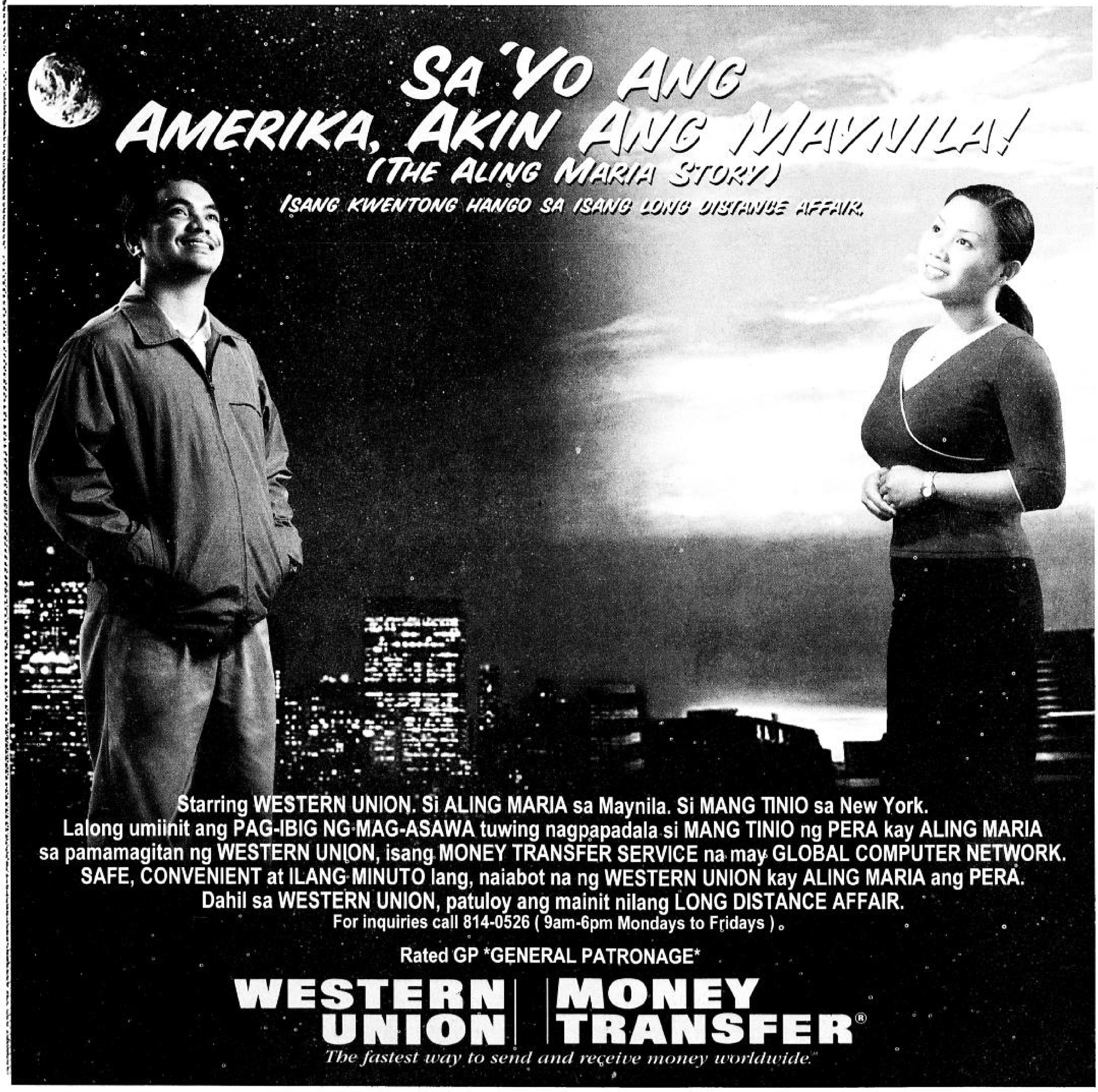
The suicide theory was first raised by the pilot's son, Marco, who was quoted Friday by the Rome daily Repubblica as saying his father may have taken his life because he had been cheated.

The Italian newspapers Corriere della Sera and La Repubblica reported Saturday that the elder Fasulo had loaned a business associate, Sergio Landonio of Milan, 1.75 million euros ($1.54 million) that Landonio was to have repaid, depositing the money in an Innsbruck, Austria bank account.

But when Fasulo went to retrieve the money last month, the account had only about 100 euros ($88) in it, Corriere said.

On Thursday morning, hours before the crash, Fasulo and one of his sons tried to file a complaint about the missing money with police in Como, in northern Italy, Corriere and La Repubblica said.

However, the authorities told him they couldn't do anything about something that occurred in Austria. ***AP***



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Audit of 'Ina ng Bayan' ads sought

BAGUIO CITY—Militant government workers want publicist Dante Ang to liquidate his expenses for a series of "Ina ng Bayan" commercials whose portrayal of President Macapagal-Arroyo has drawn mixed public reactions.

Ferdinand Gaite, president of the Confederation for Unity, Respect and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), said the commercials were financed from savings incurred by a pool of government agencies "which could have been used to build school houses instead of propping up (Ms Macapagal's) image."

"This is again a misguided attempt to clean up an image when all (the President) needs to do is promote good governance. This audit should include her expenses for an American public relations firm which helped her during her state visit to the United States," Gaite told the INQUIRER.

Gaite conducted a forum on government militancy for state workers here in preparation for the Labor Day celebrations on May 1.

He said state worker were "embarrassed, and not titillated" by the first commercial, which showed an anguished and weary-eyed President begging the public for understanding about her job's difficulties.

A subsequent commercial toned down Ms Macapagal's acting, but kept intact the catch phrase "*Kailangan ko kayo* (I need you)" to emphasize her plea for national unity and understanding.

A third commercial that was broadcast by sequestered television station IBC finally dropped Ms Macapagal for actress Nora Aunor.

Gaite said "an audit would be proper today," because Malacañang allowed Ang to continue pursuing Ms Macapagal's "image rebuilding," when "all she really needs to do is find one million jobs as she promised or address the misappropriation of the budget which took away funds for agriculture, education, and health to build a military budget."

"*Pa*-cute *pa ng pa*-cute, *eh, mali ang pagsusuri* (ng Malacañang at ni Dante Ang) *sa problema niya sa tao* (She tries hard to play cute to the public, she doesn't realize that Malacañang and Dante Ang have made the wrong conclusions about her communication problem)," he said.

But this allegedly "wrong advice" would be costly to the public, he added.

He said state workers were aghast by reports among government circles that the Palace allegedly used the savings of many line departments, to reinforce a pool fund supposedly donated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to finance the "Ina ng Bayan" commercials.

Gaite said government workers prefer a President "who can address the huge P300 billion international debt" to one who acts on television—a slight dig at deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ang, who was appointed senior consultant for public relations, had received strong criticisms for the commercials almost as soon as they were aired. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

US to spend $1M for Luzon war games

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The United States military is pouring almost $1 million to the Luzon economy for the local logistics and technical needs of the three-week long Balikatan exercise, which begins on April 22.

Maj. Ven Chapman, overall logistics chief of the 2,700-strong US contingent, said "our contract requirements over here are approaching a $1 million."

"(This) will be put into the various local economies that we will be participating in," Chapman told the INQUIRER in reply to a question on the cost of the training on the part of the US forces.

He said the contracts include board and lodging, rentals for vehicles, forklifts and port facilities as well as expenses for civic assistance missions.

On top of that amount, he said US troops are also spending for their personal expenditures, the estimates of which are not immediately made known.

'Some monies'

He said the troops, originating either from bases in Okinawa in Japan or Hawaii in the US, have "some monies to spend each day."

"They're getting out and they're contributing to the local economy," he added.

But as preparations for the large-scale training went on full gear and US troops arrived in batches at Clark, some 50 fishermen gave them a stinking welcome by throwing rotten *galunggong* (scud fish) at the zone's main gate on Thursday. ***(See related story on p.16)***

The Progresibong Alyansa ng mga Mangingisda (Pangisda), which held the rally here, said the Balikatan's use of the waters of Subic in Zambales and Ternate in Cavite had "constantly displaced" local fishing families.

Pangisda chair Pablo Rosales, during the 30-minute protest, recalled two incidents. The first involved 15 families in Talisayin in San Antonio, Zambales, who fled in terror in February 2000 when Philippine and US navies fired bombs at the village during a Balikatan training.

Casualties

In the second incident, a fisherman was killed and three others were hurt when a bomb that they found off the coast of the South China Sea exploded.

The sea and several islands had been frequently used as military training areas during the heydays of the Subic Naval Base, Rosales said.

He said Balikatan "conveniently serves as the military component of globalization which seeks to safeguard the US economic and political interests in the Asia-Pacific."

The Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chapters in Central Luzon have announced a series of protest actions until May 6, the last day of the Balikatan exercises.

Lt. Neil Peterson, spokesperson of the American contingent, did not comment on criticisms made by militant groups against joint large-scale exercises and the increasing presence of US troops in the country. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers .

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 37° Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°

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Groups ask for pullout of soldiers in Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY—Peace advocates who composed a fact-finding mission have demanded the immediate pullout of military troops in Bohol over alleged human rights abuses committed in the province.

The fact-finding mission, however, failed to indicate the specific alleged abuses, except to call for the indemnification of victims of human rights violations that had happened under the Macapagal administration and its predecessors.

The demand was contained in a committee report released Wednesday in time for a consultation between the militant Hugpong sa mga Mag-uumang Bol-anon (Humabol) and the three congressmen of the province.

However, only Rep. Eladio Jala of the third district was present. Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st District), who sent former provincial board member Isabelito Tongco, was attending to a civic action project in Tubigon town while Rep. Roberto Cajes (2nd District) was unavailable.

The report claimed that the recent troop deployment in Bohol, estimated at 2,400, "was known to be requested by Gov. Erico Aumentado himself."

It alleged that the request was made to fast-track the implementation of projects including the Bohol Irrigation Project II and Bohol Circumferential Road Improvement Project II.

The other projects that the report said were being used to justify military deployment were those covered by presidential proclamations 468 (Wahig-Inabanga Watershed Project), 129 (Rajah Sikatuna National Park) and 1037 which declared the Chocolate Hills as natural monuments.

According to the mission, these moves could be viewed as "a counter-insurgency mechanism."

The mission was held in the towns of Buenavista, Sagbayan and Danao in the second district and Anda and Candijay in the third district. ***Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

ANCESTRAL LAND

Subanen tribe asks court to stop war games

ZAMBOANGA CITY—-Subanen families in Barangay Limpapa had asked a local court to prohibit the conduct of the Balikatan exercise inside their ancestral domain here.

Named respondents in the petition for injunction filed by Timuay Noval Lambo on behalf of the Subanens were Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Balikatan co-director and Georgina Yu, administrator of the Zamboanga Ecozone and Freeport Authority (Zambo Ecozone).

"It is our right to protect our land, the source of our living and to protect our culture," Lambo told the INQUIRER after filing the petition before the Regional Trial Court Branch 14.

Lambo was assisted by lawyers Rejoice Sobejano, of the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and lawyer Manuel de Fiesta Jr., of the Commission on Human Rights here.

Lambo argued in his petition that more than 20 Subanen families were displaced after the Philippine and US militaries constructed training facilities inside the Limpapa area.

"More families will be affected, if the actual training will start," he said.

Ecozone officials gave the go signal for the construction of the training facilities that encroached on the Subanens' farms.

"The AFP clearly violated the constitutional rights of the residents by not recognizing the Ipra law RA 8371," Sobejano said.

Teodosio said he welcomed the charges.

"We do not want the conduct of the exercise to be embroiled in any controversy, but I feel that the filing of the case against us was not necessary because we have not undertaken any activity yet," he said.

Teodosio hinted that because of the opposition from the Subanens, the Balikatan might not be held in Limpapa after all.

"We don't need to quarrel with them on this (issue), although we regret it because the Limpapa area really suited our need for a jungle training base," he said.

Teodosio also said that the military was willing to donate all structures erected in the Limpapa area after the Balikatan.

These include makeshift conference halls, two bathrooms and toilets complete with amenities and a hanging bridge. The infrastructure was worth about P100,000.

The war games are not the only threats to tribal lands, based on reports made by groups helping tribal people.

In Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, an expansion project for a commercial tree and coffee plantation is reportedly driving *lumads* away from their ancestral lands in the hinterland village of Ned.

This reported recently by a fact-finding team, which went to Lake Sebu last year to investigate claims of dislocation among the *lumads*.

The fact-finding mission was formed after tribal leaders in at least three communities in Barangay Ned sought the assistance of various non-government organizations based in South Cotabato and Davao City because of the alleged intrusion by the Sarmiento Industries Inc. of their ancestral domain.

The fact-finding team, composed of representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, local and national office of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Justice and Peace Desk of the Diocese of Marbel, Indigenous Peoples Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Cotabato, Legal Research Center based in Davao City and the Notre Dame of Marbel University Campus Ministry-Religious Education Office, went to the "intruded area" on Oct. 15.

In its report, which came out in March, the fact-finding team said at least 33 families belonging to the T'boli and Manobo tribes have abandoned their ancestral homes in Sitio Sigawit, Barangay Ned and sought refuge in nearby Sitio Lubo after they were harassed by the armed guards of the Sarmiento Industries Inc.

Sarmiento Industries, which has an existing Industrial Forest Plantation Management Agreement (IFPMA) with the government covering an area of about 11,000 hectare, denied the report. ***Julie Alipala with a report from Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

COMMON SIGHTS

DENNIS SABANGAN

US Marines arrive at Clark Field in Pampanga for the next stage of war games with Philippine soldiers ready for battle.

DTI assures stable prices of basic goods

BACOLOD CITY—Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas assured the public of stable prices of goods after manufacturers and retailers committed to him that there will be no increase in the prices of prime commodities despite the recent oil price increase.

Roxas said the Department of Trade and Industry has received a commitment from the Philippine Amalgamated Grocery and Supermarkets Association, the Philippine Association of Supermarkets Inc. and the Philippine Retail Association that if manufacturers do not raise their prices, they will not do so, too.

"There is no reason to raise prices (following) the commitments of the manufacturers and retailers," he said.

Roxas said he expected the prices of goods to remain at its current level because transportation cost is a small percentage of the cost of delivery of prime commodities.

The DTI is also closely monitoring the prices of construction materials to ensure that measures can immediately be made to prevent artificial shortages that could cause price hikes, Roxas added.

Roxas was in Bacolod on Friday to distribute 700 Compaq Pentium 3 computers for 35 public high schools in Negros Occidental.

The computer distribution was in line with the DTI's plan to establish about 1,000 computer laboratories in 16 regions in the country under its PCs for Public Schools Project. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Mt. Pinatubo victims warned against syndicate buying houses

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council-Pinatubo Project Management Office (HUDCC-PPMO) has warned Pinatubo victims against dealing with unscrupulous people who are offering to buy their housing units at the new resettlement center in Mexico town.

Flordelita Arrozal, deputy executive director of HUDCC-PPMO, said on Thursday the buyers have been convincing Pinatubo victims to sell their houses for P25,000.

"Most people buying the houses are not from Pampanga. They roam around the resettlement site with clutch bags containing cash. Once the victims agree to sell, the buyers pay P25,000 on the spot," she said.

Arrozal said the Army engineering brigade had built 270 houses at the resettlement center in Mexico at P85,000 per unit.

The estate management policy of the HUDCC states that awardees of Pinatubo housing units cannot sell their property without prior approval from the agency.

He said buyers must have been taking advantage of the HUDCC-PPMO's distribution of transfer certificate of titles (TCTs) to Pinatubo victims.

During her 55th birthday celebration in Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo awarded 2,000 TCTs to Pinatubo victims living at the Mauaque resettlement center in Mabalacat town.

The TCTs were annotated with a stamped notice stating that the Pinatubo victims could not sell the property awarded to them without the HUDCC-PPMO's permission.

Earlier, Arrozal also warned against a syndicate that takes over and sells houses to non-Pinatubo victims illegally, particularly at the Pandacaqui resettlement center in Mexico.

The houses are reportedly sold to non-Pinatubo victims for P30,000 to P50,000 each. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Cordillerans urged to eat veggies to help farmers

BAGUIO CITY—Agriculture officials are introducing new recipes to Cordillera provinces which are designed to encourage villagers to buy their own vegetable products and save Benguet's once-lucrative vegetable industry.

A three-year sustained demand loss and the impending El Niño phenomenon threaten to crush Benguet's cash crops.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas said vegetables planted this cropping season have already been parched by drought. "Rains have not been falling since January," he told a press briefing here.

The Department of Agriculture noted that 60 percent of the province's labor force is employed in agricultural fields, representing up to 40,000 farm families.

The potential industry crisis will, however, only continue a prolonged 40 to 60 percent drop in demand for vegetables in the lowlands, which Benguet farmers have been suffering since 1999. The supply glut has left the province "177 percent sufficient in vegetables," DA records here showed.

Dr. Elizabeth Versola, DA regional director, said most farmers have been inclined to sell their cash crops at a loss to Metro Manila markets to cope with the crisis.

She said unsold vegetables are left to rot in warehouses or fields because "vegetable farmers no longer eat their own products."

But vegetable traders need new consumers to emerge in far-flung towns of Benguet, Kalinga, Apayao, Ifugao and Mt. Province to solve their supply problems, she said.

These provinces are "barely tapped" markets where vegetables can be routed, in lieu of a low Manila demand, she said.

To do so, agriculturists will end up donning chef's hats and introduce recipes suited for the rough highlands, said Susan Balanza, chief of DA's planning division here.

The DA has not yet projected which recipes it may endorse, but Versola said the average Cordillera cuisine is "very meaty." ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

GMA cutting fat in gov't bureaucracy, says exec

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has been quietly shrinking the graft-ridden bureaucracy, amid accusations from militant government workers that she is selling out public service to corporate interests, an official of a presidential commission said here Wednesday.

The low-key Presidential Commission on Effective Governance (PCEG) said the President was working from a broad outline of aggressive reforms when she terminated 19 agencies attached to the Office of the President in February.

She also rationalized the pay scale of executive appointees manning government financial institutions (GFIs) and divested problem agencies of their assets, said Amelita Castillo, director of the Organization and Performance Bureau (OPIB). The bureau acts as the PCEG secretariat.

But the President is gearing for more radical management reforms in Malacañang, which range from developing a new standard policy that will guide the Palace on how to categorize employees, to a proposed measure that hands over to the Civil Service Commission the authority to appoint most government executives except those in the Cabinet, Castillo said.

"The President's reform agenda is aimed at de-politicizing the bureaucracy," Castillo said.

This was in response to protests from government employees of GFIs like the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System and the recent complaint of employees' unions of shelter agencies who are objecting to the creation of a Department of Housing.

The PCEG presented Ms Macapagal's agenda for bureaucratic reforms to the first quarterly membership meeting of the Philippine Association for Government Budget Administration Inc. (Pagba) here.

Castillo said the PCEG, a creation of deposed President Joseph Estrada, was reconstituted recently under the helm of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to address the government's deficit spending crisis last year.

To do so, she said, Malacañang had to come to terms with its inherent management problem: "Government involved itself too much in societal matters (only to end up) competing with the private sector for institutional concerns where (the private capitalist) is more efficient."

Ms Macapagal wants changes in the bureaucracies manning agriculture, social welfare and infrastructure development.

She is also enforcing the reorganization this year of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the departments of health, social welfare, national defense and budget and management, the National Statistics Office and the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB), Castillo said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

MEAT FEAST

BEN MOSES EBREO

A tribe in Nueva Vizcaya butcher pigs and prepare their meat for a tribal ritual. The meat is shared with members of the community.

Monkey 'jailed' for biting 2

BACOLOD CITY—Authorities here had to lock up a monkey who starred in an annual festival after the animal was reported to have bitten the necks of two visitors at a booth that showcases the products and tourist sites of Candoni town, some 137 kilometers southwest of here.

The monkey, named Toto, was one of the features of the town's booth.

Toto, which is owned by the Candoni municipal government, is now serving time in a cage at the Panaad Park in Bacolod City where the annual festival is ongoing.

Dr. Ernel Tumimbang, who heads the Medical Clinic at the Panaad Park, identified Toto as the one who bit the neck of Johnny Oraño, 22, of Binalbagan town on Friday morning.

He said Toto also bit Joseph Ombion, 13, of Bago City, in the right side of the neck on Saturday night.

Tumimbang said it was possible that Oraño and Ombion were just passing by the Candoni booth when Toto bit them.

The two cases were the only ones reported to Tumimbang. But Toto was said to have either scratched or bitten four other persons at the Panaad site in Bacolod.

Candoni officials assured Tumimbang that the victims were not in danger because Toto has had anti-rabies shots.

The Panaad Festival, which kicked off on April 12, showcases 32 festivals of Negros Occidental. The festivities ended yesterday.

The best of the festivals held throughout the year in various parts of Negros Occidental are brought to the Panaad for what is known as the annual "mother of all festivals."

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

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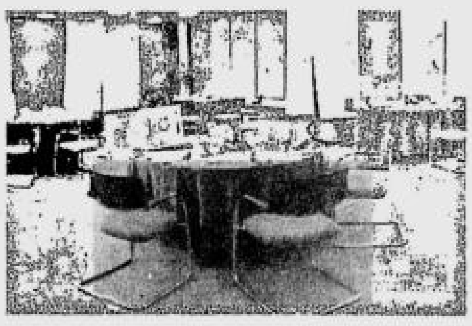

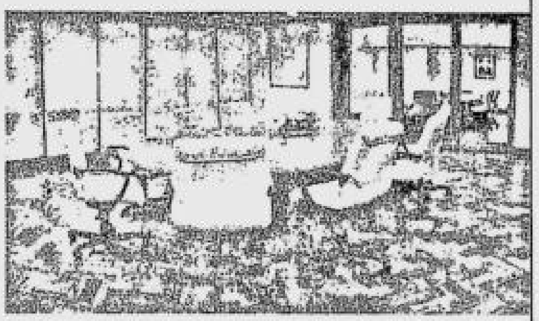

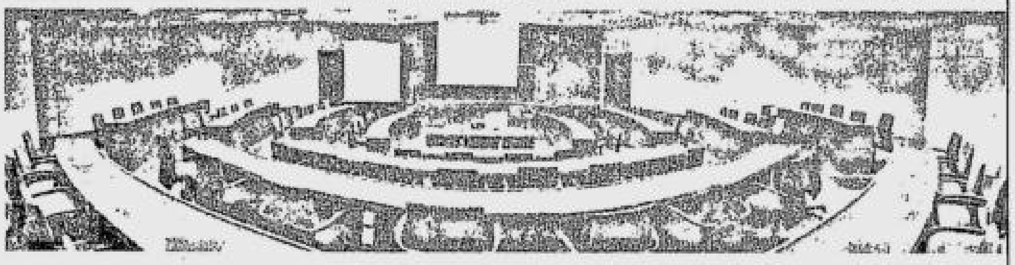

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May	• Junior Chef	(participation)	May 3, 4, 10, 11	8 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
	• Young Culinary Experts	(participation)	May 3, 4, 10, 11	8 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
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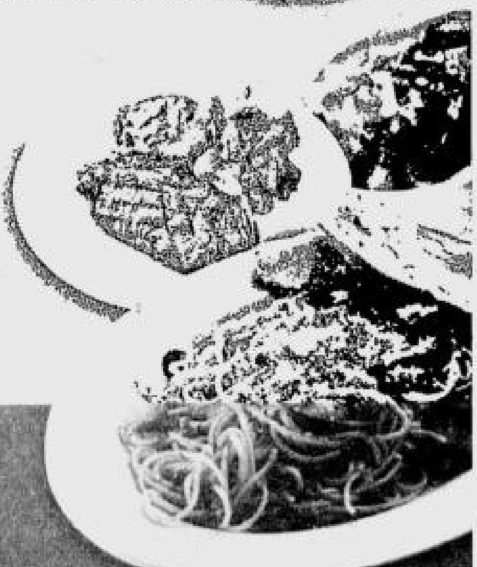
May	• Easy Japanese Cooking with Kikkoman	(participation)	May 4	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• San Remo Pasta Masterclass	(participation)	May 4	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• Authentic Chinese Cuisine by Lee Kum Kee	(participation)	May 11	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• Fundamentals of Professional Cooking	(participation)	May 17, 18, 24, 25	9 am - 2 pm	P 5,500
	• Fundamentals of Professional Baking	(participation)	May 17, 18, 24, 25	10 am - 3 pm	P 5,500



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Residents to sue corn products factory over pollution in villages

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A cornstarch plant here is being sued by an environmentalist group after residents of Barangay Tablon, which is 10 kilometers from here, complained that it was causing pollution.

And to complicate matters for the Cagayan Corn Product Corp., a former company official confirmed the allegations during a meeting with representatives of the Environment and Management Bureau here.

Engr. Feliciano Tong, former CCPC plant manager said instead of trying to correct defects in its machinery and facilities, the company submitted tampered water samples to the EMB.

"I thought I could have done something to repair the damage the CCPC has wrought to the residents and nearby barangays in Tablon. But, it was futile because the owners did not heed my request to upgrade the facilities to stop the sea and air pollution," he said.

Tong, who resigned on Sept. 11, 2001, said his reason for coming out was to help put a stop to the industrial pollution caused by CCPC.

CCPC, a domestic enterprise owned by the Go family, started producing cornstarch and corn gluten, corn germ and corn feeds in 1993. It has since faced several closure orders because of charges of pollution.

Tong said the company's leaking reactor has been emitting fatal gases like sulfur, methane and ammonia that have weakened the resistance of Tablon residents against diseases.

Alarmed by the continuing complaints, the EMB conducted a random water sampling of the firm's wastes on Feb. 13, 2002.

The samples showed that the amount of pollutants in its wastewater exceeded the standards set by the environment department.

Bencyrus Ellorin, spokesperson of the Task Force Macajalar (TFM), said CCPC's wastewater had a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of 783 parts per million (ppm), well over the 200 ppm set by the EMB.

But Tong said despite the findings, CCPC continued its operations.

He surmised that some environment officials were in connivance with CCPC.

Alex Jimenez, EMB officer in charge, told the INQUIRER that they were not remiss in their job.

The INQUIRER tried to reach EMB Director Sabdullah Abubacar but they were allegedly out of town.

CCPC legal counsel Arnold Barba said the allegations were unfounded.

Barba told the INQUIRER that Tong has been sour-graping after the company did not heed his request for additional benefits for his retirement.

"Tong warned the company he was going to go to the TFM if his demands would not be met," Barba claimed. ***Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

FLIGHT 541

Trees planted for crash victims

ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL—Relatives and friends of victims of the Air Philippines crash on Friday marked the second anniversary of the air tragedy here with a tribute that included planting trees.

The commemoration, dubbed as *"Takbo, Sikad, Tanim 2002: Alay sa mga Nasawi,"* started with a 20-minute prayer at the city hall.

It was held at the same time the ill-fated Air Philippines Flight 541 went down on Sitio Camanlangan, Barangay San Isidro in Babac District here on April 19, 2000.

After the prayer, relatives and friends of the 131 victims either walked or took bicycles to the crash site, where Mass was celebrated.

Along the way, they planted 131 *yakal* seedlings on an 18-kilometer stretch from the city hall to the crash site.

Engr. Guillermo Adriatico, Island Garden City of Samal assistant engineer and coordinator of the activities, said *yakal*, known for its hardness, "represents the unfading love (of the victims' relatives) for those who perished in the fatal (accident)."

Dr. Carlos Capitan II, president of the Flight 541 Assistance Group Foundation, said the trees would also serve as a "living reminder" of their continued quest for justice for the victims.

Relatives and friends of the victims had expressed belief that the tragedy was not a simple accident but was a result of negligence on the part of the government, the airline company and the plane's manufacturer.

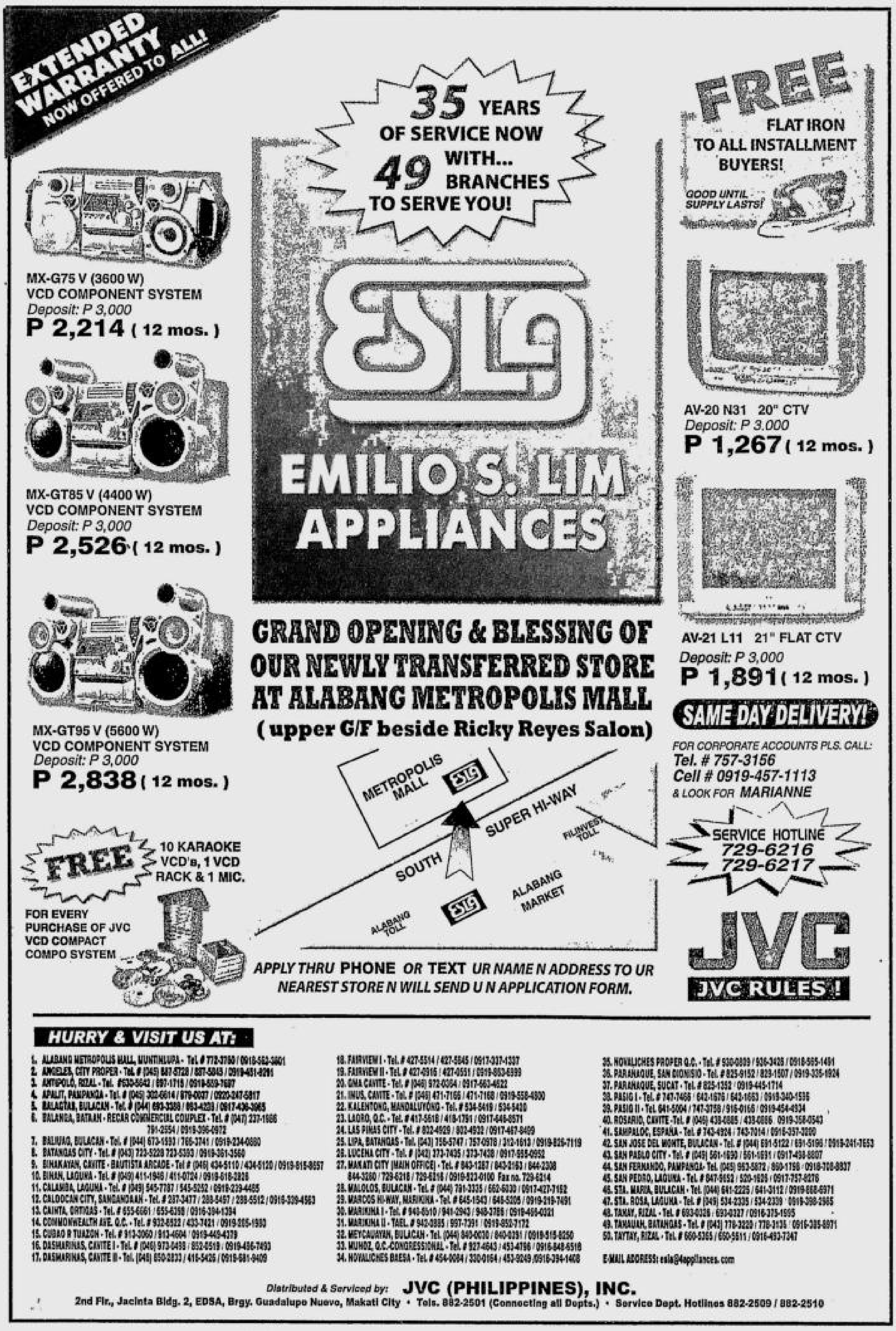
Earlier, they sued three Chicago-based companies, which were instrumental in leasing the ill-fated Boeing 737 to Air Philippines.

The complainants are being assisted by the law firm Sterns and O'Reilly and other US law firms.

Meanwhile, officials and employees of Air Philippines also sponsored a 6 a.m. Mass on Friday at the St. Joseph Parish in Sasa District in Davao City to commemorate the tragedy.

They then proceeded to the Davao Memorial Park and offered flowers at a common grave for bodies of the victims, many of whom have not been identified. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

REMEMBERING, for relatives of those who died in the crash of Flight 541, is sometimes a painful experience. Nothing, not flowers, not tree seedlings, not words, could describe the grief of this man who visits the site where an Air Philippines jet crashed two years ago. Tree seedlings were planted along a highway leading to the crash site, trees that relatives of the victims said could represent unending grief and love for those who died. Two years after, there is still no justice, according to the relatives of the victims of Flight 541 and this makes the grieving more painful. BING GONZALES



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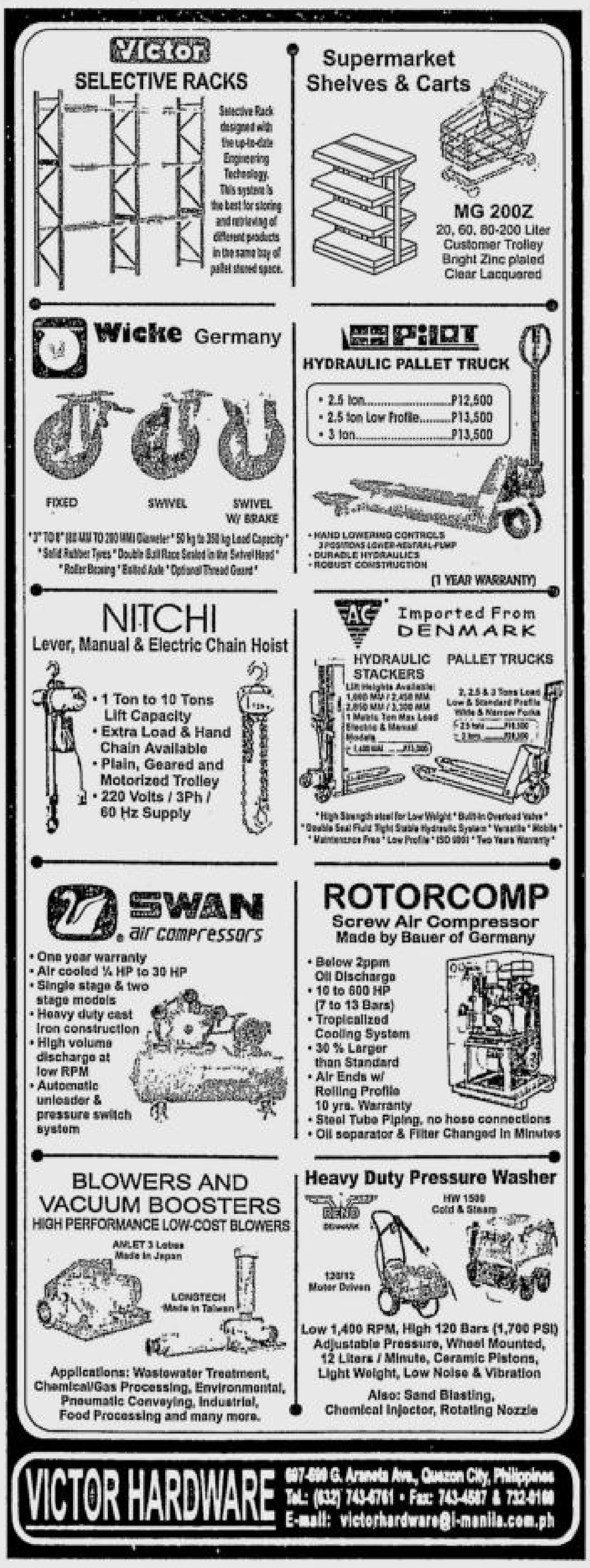

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Israelis pull out of Nablus, Ramallah

From page A1

battle in Jenin that ended on April 12, but Israel says the dead numbered only in the dozens, mostly fighters.

Meaningless pullback?

A Palestinian security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, said the Israeli army pullback meant little. "As long as they are not willing to withdraw completely, we cannot consider this a withdrawal," he said. "These moves are only done to appease the international community and the United States."

"What is the meaning of this so-called withdrawal when the Church of the Nativity and Arafat's compound are besieged and they (Israeli troops) are on the edges of the city and can come back at any moment?" he demanded.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israeli forces would stay put outside Arafat's compound until three members of a radical Palestinian group that claimed responsibility for last year's killing of an Israeli Cabinet minister were handed over.

"We are demanding these people be extradited so they can be put on trial," Ben-Eliezer told Israel radio.

Israel also wants the handover of Arafat's chief financial officer, Fuad Shubaki, whom it suspects of trying to smuggle arms from Iran into the Palestinian territories.

Asked if the army would storm Arafat's offices if the standoff continued, Ben-Eliezer would not comment, saying only that Israel would "find a way that will be acceptable."

Palestinians say there are no provisions for extradition in agreements they have signed with Israel. Arafat offered on Friday to put those suspected of assassinating far-right Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi on trial in a Palestinian court. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine killed Zeevi in revenge for Israel's killing of its leader.

In Nablus, witnesses said tanks left three strategic points in the center, north and west of the city. Military vehicles had also quit the nearby Balata refugee camp.

Even where the army has pulled out of West Bank cities and camps, troops still encircle them, tightly controlling access and imposing hardships on beleaguered residents.

Israel says the blockades are a vital defense against attacks and has said it may stage fresh military incursions to seek out Palestinian militants as required.

While remaining under siege in Ramallah, Arafat continued to operate politically, setting up a 10-member committee to look into Israeli "war crimes" in Palestinian towns and villages since the army launched its deadly sweep in the West Bank on March 29.

Ramallah, the West Bank's economic and political capital, was the first city seized by the Israeli army when it launched a rolling reoccupation of West Bank towns and refugee camps after suicide bombings killed scores of Israelis.

Fact-finding team

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat welcomed the UN Security Council resolution to send a fact-finding team, pledging cooperation with whoever is sent but doubting that Israel would be as forthcoming.

"We hope the international community will allow this team to come with the necessary tools to remove the destroyed houses in Jenin and in Nablus and to find the mass graves in which Israel hid a number of bodies in different areas," he said.

Resolution 1405 also expressed concern at the "dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian civilian population" and emphasized the urgency of allowing medical and relief workers access to them.

But Gissin dismissed Palestinian charges of a massacre, saying Israeli forces clashed with militants in a community Israel has dubbed "the city of suicide bombers."

"According to our estimates, there would be 50 Palestinians killed," he said, adding 10 bodies "had been booby-trapped to explode when Israeli soldiers went to evacuate them."

Aid workers stopped their digging for bodies amid the Jenin camp's flattened buildings to preserve evidence of any Israeli atrocities for the coming UN inquiry.

"We decided to be extremely careful in not destroying evidence by digging the area with bulldozers . . . loads of crucial evidence (have) already (been) lost," UN Agency for Relief and Work Agency regional deputy director Guy Siri said.

A limited number of relief workers was first let in by the army on April 15, three days after the army said it had crushed Palestinian fighters during the heavy fighting, which Israel blocked reporters from covering.

Aid workers said their immediate focus would be on caring for survivors, as a lack of sanitary facilities has raised fears of a disease epidemic.

Despite the troop withdrawals, the death toll in the West Bank and Gaza continued to rise with two Palestinians and one Israeli killed Saturday in two separate incidents.

AFP, Reuters, AP

Pierantoni ransom . . .

From page A1

the priests," Jimenez said. The mayor called for a meeting and informed the Christian community.

"September came and went. We (began to think) it was just one of those threats. On Oct. 17, 2001, Father Pierantoni was abducted. On or before that, some people noticed the presence of two men who looked unfamiliar. They were seen attending Mass at least twice. These two turned out to be part of the nine who took the priest."

On Nov. 8, Jimenez said he received information that Pierantoni was brought to Tungawan in Zamboanga Sibugay. "But we did not give it much weight. Task Force Giuseppe reported (that he had been) brought to Lanao del Sur. The priest, it turned out, was all the time in Tungawan . . . On his way to his release last April 7, he recalled passing by Ipil town. That was when he realized he (had not been) brought to Basilan."

In the early morning of April 8, the authorities saw the Italian missionary walk out of a forested area in Tungawan.

Three attempts

All told, the bishop knew of three attempts to "negotiate" with the kidnappers. The first took place on Oct. 28, after a diocesan priest offered to contact his Muslim relatives. Some military men stationed in Marawi City knew of this, Jimenez said. The second happened in November; Jimenez said this was with the knowledge of the Philippine National Police and the military in Lanao del Sur. The third was last January, when the ransom was waylaid.

Several negotiation schemes were tried, Jimenez said. One was initiated by Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano and Marawi City Mayor Omar Ali Solitario.

"They waited for the kidnappers' emissaries for days but it was all in vain. The military and the police knew of this. There were reports that the Pentagon group was behind the kidnapping and the two mayors thought they were dealing with them. But Pentagon's Faisal Marohombsar said it was not their doing. He said they do not kidnap priests and that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was keeping him. But MILF (spokesperson) Eid Kabalu refuted this."

Then the bishop and his group received more information. "We were told by a source that the kidnappers might be a bandit group composed of former MILF and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members and some active military men. We had no way of checking this. But some witnesses remembered the features of the abductors. The relatives of the suspects who fit the description went mad and threatened the witnesses."

Ransom payment

After the second attempt, there was no word from the kidnappers for the longest time. "(Then,) on Jan. 3, Mayor Quijano suggested that a negotiating team be sent to Cotabato as they expected the priest's release the next day somewhere near Sultan Kudarat. I was informed that some politicians (had) tried to negotiate earlier. I am not aware of the terms or the exact amount that was being offered in exchange for Father Pierantoni's release. I only saw a black bag being carried by a member of our team. Our group was led by Bishop Fernando Capalla, who is with the Bishops-Ulama Forum, and Mayor Quijano."

The bag, Jimenez said, reportedly contained several million pesos that came from a high-ranking elected politician.

The group waited for the kidnappers' emissaries to contact them. They believed that Pierantoni would be released in the area.

"(But) nothing happened. We received word from the emissaries that the exchange would not push through because they believed they were surrounded by armed military men," Jimenez said.

"On our second night there, Mayor Quijano said he was in contact with a certain Alex who, he said, wanted P500,000 to be released first. I cannot really give the details because we were not actually there, we were just being briefed. We were staying at the Notre Dame of Cotabato."

In his last letter written in captivity, dated March 16, Pierantoni said Marohombsar's group was demanding $1 million in ransom and P500,000 in "board and lodging" fees.

"The P500,000 was delivered in the morning," Jimenez said. "The balance of P2.5 million was supposed to be delivered in the evening after which Father Pierantoni would be released. The story that got to us later was that the money was taken by several Armalite-wielding men who suddenly turned up in the dark and snatched the bag that contained the money. This was the version of one of the people who brought the black bag to the emissaries."

The supposed recipients got nothing. The men who carried the bag were taken to Iligan for investigation, Jimenez said.

One of them identified one of the armed men. A face, then a name. Mayor Quijano decided to go to Dimataling to get more information.

A military source had earlier told the INQUIRER that an undisclosed amount had been paid to Marohombsar's group sometime during the first week of January. About a month after, on Feb. 16, the controversial leader of the Pentagon kidnap group was arrested in Manila.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Regional Trial Court of Pasig City Branch 67 in the case entitled "G.A. Manufacturing Co., Inc. vs. Kubota Agro-Industrial Machinery Phils., Inc. et al.," Civil Case No. 68871 has issued a Writ of Preliminary Injunction against the defendant Kubota Agro-Industrial Machinery Phils., Inc. Pertinently, the Writ of Preliminary Injunction states that :

> "xxx that until further orders, you, the said defendants or their duly authorized representatives, agents and/or persons acting in their behalves to refrain from making any claim, warning or demand to any person, entity, administrative agency, government agency, government body, judicial or quasi-judicial entities that the KUVICO brand of Diesel Engines/Generators are confusingly similar to the KUBOTA brand of Diesel Engines/Generators and/or is violative of the intellectual property right of defendant or the KUBOTA brand.

This Writ of Preliminary Injunction against Kubota Agro-Industrial Machinery Phils., Inc. was issued after hearing conducted before the Court wherein both plaintiff G.A. MANUFACTURING CO., INC., distributors of KUVICO Diesel Engines and Generators, and defendant KUBOTA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY PHILS., INC. were present.

RIVERA SANTOS & MARANAN
Counsel for G.A. MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

By:

AGNES H. MARANAN

JOSE SALVADOR M. RIVERA, JR.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 551-22-00, 522-00-00, 526-01-00

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 22, 2002

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	3,181,058,953
Due from Bangko Sentral		14,561,951,734
Due from Other Banks		1,574,006,813
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,985,816,380
Trading Account Securities (Net)		515,216,591
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		62,057,055,743
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		108,286,310,056
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		110,773,476
Equity Investments (Net)		6,027,490,160
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,307,915,649
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		11,404,833,413
Others		9,221,130,458
TOTAL ASSETS	P	235,233,559,226

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	69,460,716,090
Savings Deposits		80,498,662,958
Time Deposits		24,536,082,870
Special/Other Deposits		387,462,792
Due to Bangko Sentral		105,286,543
Due to Banks		203,481,608
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,229,564,332
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		986,292,716
Deposits Substitutes		262,191,015
Others		24,197,488,884
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		2,966,259,395
Other Liabilites		9,505,347,997
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	215,338,837,200

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	9,200,000,000
Surplus		7,230,892,642
Surplus Reserves		3,137,502,389
Other Capital Accounts		326,326,995
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		19,894,722,026
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	235,233,559,226

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	4,221,241,922
Bills for Collection		899,102,381
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		6,494,347,373
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(948,026,534)
Assets Held under Trust and Management Investment Agreements		11,346,479,232
Invested in:		
- Government Securities		6,947,305,021
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		1,217,694,525
- Loans and Discounts		1,299,949,400
- Other Assets		1,881,530,288
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,299,441,651
- Common Trust Funds		1,595,062,557
- Investment/Fund Management		8,451,975,024
Other Contingent Accounts		31,848,107,532
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	53,861,251,906

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a. Government	P	112,042,987,860
b. Banks		11,826,235,643
c. Trust Department		74,907,962
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		225.01%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		226.87%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		28,654,834,610
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		20.96 %
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		43,294,057,346
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		1,288,142,722
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		13,171,133,014
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		8.32%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,689,531,772
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		1.24%

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 16th day of April, 2002 in Makati City, affiants exhibiting to me their Res. Certificate No. 9452987, issued in Manila on January 9, 2002 and Res. Certificate No. 00667624 issued in Manila on March 27, 2002.

FELIX L. MANLANGIT
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 737851
Issued on January 5, 2002
Makati City

Doc. No. 489
Page No. 99
Book No. III
Series of 2002

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of March 22, 2002

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	3,184,029,088
Due from Bangko Sentral		14,561,851,734
Due from Other Banks		1,671,565,094
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,985,816,380
Trading Account Securities (Net)		515,216,591
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		62,162,066,817
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		108,134,830,276
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		110,773,476
Equity Investments (Net)		5,295,458,950
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,426,223,962
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		11,423,574,142
Others		10,317,085,385
TOTAL ASSETS	P	235,788,591,885

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	69,446,764,391
Savings Deposits		80,492,350,075
Time Deposits		24,536,082,870
Special/Other Deposits		387,462,792
Due to Bangko Sentral		105,286,543
Due to Banks		203,481,608
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,234,669,403
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		986,292,716
Deposits Substitutes		262,191,015
Others		24,197,488,884
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,502,308,426
Other Liabilites		9,528,437,606
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	215,882,816,529

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	9,200,000,000
Surplus		7,241,882,588
Surplus Reserves		3,137,565,803
Other Capital Accounts		326,326,995
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		19,905,775,386
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	235,788,591,885

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	4,221,241,922
Bills for Collection		899,102,381
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		6,494,347,373
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(948,026,534)
Assets Held under Trust and Management Investment Agreements		11,346,479,232
Invested in:		
- Government Securities		6,947,305,021
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		1,217,694,525
- Loans and Discounts		1,299,949,400
- Other Assets		1,881,530,288
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,299,441,651
- Common Trust Funds		1,595,062,557
- Investment/Fund Management		8,451,975,024
Other Contingent Accounts		31,848,107,532
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	53,861,251,906

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a. Government	P	112,042,987,860
b. Banks		11,826,235,643
c. Trust Department		74,907,962

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
   - a. LBP Leasing Corporation
   - b. LBP Financial Services, SPA
   - c. LBP Remittance Co., USA

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 16th day of April, 2002 in Makati City, affiants exhibiting to me their Res. Certificate No. 9452987, issued in Manila on January 9 2002 and Res. Certificate No. 00667624 issued in Manila on March 27, 2002.

FELIX L. MANLANGIT
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 737851
Issued on January 5, 2002
Makati City

Doc. No. 490
Page No. 99
Book No. III
Series of 2002

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (Deposits insured up to P100,000.00)

Balikatan 02-2 opens today; US Marines arrive

From page A1

The American forces have been augmented by 340 US Navy engineers and their security escorts.

Balikatan 02-2 will be held in Clark Field in Pampanga, Ternate in Cavite, and Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. It will be participated in by 2,665 American troops and 2,900 Filipino soldiers.

It will officially open at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City with Vice President Teofisto Guingona as guest of honor.

The new maneuvers are aimed at helping the Philippines improve its defenses and ability to participate in US peacekeeping activities.

"This is an extremely important exercise, one of the great opportunities when US and Philippine forces can get together and share training skills, share cultures and strengthen the bond that will eventually make us a better team," said 2nd Lt. Albert Eskalis, a US military spokesperson.

Night flying

A Philippine military statement said the maneuvers would enhance its pilots' night flying and search-and-rescue skills, while Army troops would gain command skills and experience in helicopter operations, field artillery firing and close-air support.

US Marines guard the military vehicles that will be used during the Balikatan 02-2 war games. DENNIS SABANGAN

The exercise is expected to end May 6, with the last week devoted to civil operations, ranging from construction projects to medical and dental clinics for local residents.

Also today, a US Navy landing ship that can transport more than 500 American troops is expected to dock at Manila's South Harbor.

The USS Fort McHenry has a crew of 372 men led by 22 officers and 19 chief petty officers.

"It is scheduled to arrive (in Cavite) right after the opening (of the exercise) or later," Maj. Elmer Quiros of the Joint Information Bureau of Balikatan 02-2 told defense reporters.

The Fort McHenry, which carries a new landing ship with air cushion, will take part in amphibious training.

1st Lt. Neil Peterson, public affairs officer of the joint military exercises, said the 600 American soldiers who arrived at the Subic Freeport were immediately sent to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija for jungle warfare training.

Cultural briefing

Peterson said American soldiers participating in the exercises would undergo a "cultural briefing" about the Philippines. He said the remaining US participants were expected to arrive this afternoon.

Not only American ships and troops but also military aircraft arrived yesterday in Pampanga. At least 25 military aircraft landed at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark Field.

Peterson said the aircraft would provide support for the army exercises in Fort Magsaysay and the naval exercises in Ternate.

He said the aircraft would also be used for aviation-related training, including gunnery activities at the Crow Valley in Capas. The Crow Valley gunnery used to be the target shooting range of the 13th US Air Force, which was based in the former Clark Air Base. ***With a report from AP***

Estrada marks one year in jail

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo, who replaced him, is watching closely to see if this could all be preparation for a repeat of the bloody riot staged by his followers at the gates of the presidential palace on May 1 last year.

On Friday, about 5,000 of Estrada's followers staged a rally at the military hospital where he is detained while being tried in a special anti-graft court on charges of massive corruption.

Riot police with fire trucks in the wings kept the crowd from the hospital gates, fearful of a repeat of the May 1 melee. But in the end, the protestors dispersed peacefully.

Despite the security, Estrada was allowed to mark his 65th birthday on Thursday, with a Catholic Mass and a party on the hospital lawn.

Several senators, movie stars and pro-Estrada media figures gathered under the trees for the Mass, which included a speech by the ex-President.

"This is a very memorable birthday. I can't imagine that I would be spending my birthday in jail," a light-hearted Estrada told the crowd, showing no sign of resentment for his plight.

But he soon returned to vintage-Estrada form, saying, "Now that I am in this situation, I still pray for our nation and for the poor.

"We, who are better off in life, must not forget the poor. They have no one to turn to except us," he said.

The birthday party itself was a sharp contrast from the late night drinking binges that Estrada and a small batch of friends reportedly held at the presidential palace.

Just small talk

Alcoholic beverages were unavailable. Estrada himself was not seen partaking of the roast pig and rice cakes that were offered to the guests. Instead, he went from table to table, making small talk.

While unable to leave his detention center himself, Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, has been visiting slum areas in Manila in the past week, distributing charity goods in bags with the slogan "From President Joseph Estrada" on the side.

For those unable to meet the Estrada family in person, there is a videodisc being distributed by his camp, showing his accomplishments but also explaining how he was allegedly forced out of power by a greedy elite.

The video, titled "Father of the Masses," showcases Estrada's rise to the presidency and his accomplishments for the poor.

It says he had many more plans to uplift the poor in his remaining four years in power but was unable to carry them out because of his ouster.

Potent message

The message of the video is unmistakable: Estrada is for the poor and the poor must be for Estrada.

In a country where four in 10 people are considered to be living in poverty, surviving on less than P38 a day, this is a potent message.

Estrada used his show biz fame, common touch and populist appeal to win election by a landslide in 1998 despite being a known drinker, gambler and womanizer who dropped out of college.

In the end, his old habits brought him down. A corruption scandal, triggered by a disgruntled ex-drinking buddy sparked an uprising in January last year that resulted in his ouster.

In a series of recollections published in the Malaya newspaper on his birthday, Estrada blamed the elite and educated sectors, who have always opposed him, for orchestrating his downfall.

He called on the public to "restore sanity in our land and expose the grand deception"—an apparent appeal for his return to power.

But surveys show his popularity has dropped in recent months, with people shifting their attention to more pressing issues.

"To most of the people, the Estrada issue is seen as something that the courts should be attending to," said political scientist Felipe Miranda. ***AFP***

Gen. Santos blasts kill 14; 60 hurt

From page A1

Cotabato City as the primary suspect in the bomb scare that swept Metro Manila.

Rogelio Adamat,41, a former employee of the International Labor Organization, was identified when his fingerprints matched those found on the envelope that concealed a bomb found on Taft Avenue in Manila.

In the past, police suspected the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for setting off bombs in General Santos.

The city is some 220 kilometers from Basilan Island, where the Abu Sayyaf has been holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse hostage for nearly 11 months. About 160 US Special Forces are on the island to train Filipino troops assigned to crush the Abu Sayyaf, an al-Qaida-linked group.

On Thursday, an Indonesian man, who told police he planned a series of nearly simultaneous bombings that killed 22 people in Manila on Dec. 30, 2000, pleaded guilty to explosives possession after leading police to a buried cache of more than a ton of TNT, detonating cords and M-16 rifles in January in General Santos.

Text messages

Earlier yesterday, text messages from an unidentified "texter" circulated around the city, warning that 18 bombs would explode. The message sender advised some members of the media to stay away from public or crowded places.

Roniel Degorio, a reporter of RGMA Super Radyo, said he received a text message at 8:25 a.m. More than six hours later, the first bomb exploded.

The explosion came despite the security measures adopted by the police. Baluyot claimed that as early as 6 a.m. he already deployed his men in strategic areas of the city.

Police checkpoints were set up in several road junctions leading to other parts of the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area.

Baluyot said foot patrols were also intensified while security measures were adopted in various private establishments and government buildings and installations.

"*Kaya lang nalusutan pa rin tayo* (They still outwitted us)," the chief of police said.

He theorized that the bomb that blew up near the Phela Convention Center was lobbed by the suspects after seeing policemen at the checkpoints.

Hospitals

At 8:30 last night, the city social welfare and development office placed the death toll at 14 and the number of injured at 60. Killed were Peter Olaer, Jocelyn Jumani, Gerry Jumani, Jack Tumbaga, Concepcion Panganiban, and Albert Jaloma.

Rosalinda Tablason, Vicente Tablason, Cynthia Guiñares, Arvin Guiñares, Maruja Llera, Hardy Calunsag, Pearl Panag, and Armando Jamit.

At the General Santos Doctor's Hospital, seven persons were reported dead, while 13 were injured. Relatives of the victims were being barred by the security guards from entering the hospital premises.

The hospital's compound was declared off limits to visiting relatives of the patients, including members of the media.

At the St. Elizabeth Hospital, three were recorded dead and 22 injured; District Hospital, one dead and three injured; Diagan's Clinic, one dead and two injured; and at the Augis clinic, two wounded. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; AFP and AP***

₱500,000 shop blitz

From page A1

phone to break the news: She won a P500,000 shopping spree in one of the biggest department stores in the country.

"I screamed with joy inside the taxi. I knew there was a promotion, but I was thinking of another one," Tio, 34, a pediatric dentist from Cebu, recalled.

"I only asked, 'Did I win?' in jest, and the person said, 'Yes.' It was only later when I realized what my prize was," she said.

Tio has a lucky streak, according to her friends. Earlier this year, she won P20,000 in another bank raffle.

On Chinese New Year on Feb. 12, an employee of Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. convinced her to apply for a Red Mastercard credit card as there was an ongoing promotion in which women card holders can win a free shopping spree worth P500,000 at the Rustan's Makati.

Tio applied for a credit card in one of the HSBC branches in Cebu and used it to pay for her gym workout fee.

A few weeks later, the call from the bank employee came while she was in Manila for a visit.

Yesterday was Tio's grand shopping day. She arrived in the department store with her mother, headed straight to the Salvatore Ferragamo outlet and checked out a black leather wallet.

"I already 'pre-bought' several items for my sister last Thursday," Tio said. It was also then that she indicated her interest in a very expensive watch that gobbled half of her shopping budget.

Initially, the department store hedged on the purchase but Tio kept her ground. After all, it was her winnings. Tio later asked reporters not to divulge the watch's brand name.

Except for the watch and the Ferragamo wallet, Tio chose mostly imported items not on the high-end list.

"Friends were telling to buy this, buy that. But I'd rather go for comfort than a popular name," she said.

At the Banana Republic outlet, Tio was unable to resist the urge to call some friends.

"They were happy for me," she said in Filipino. "But I realize that shopping can also be so tiring."

MARY Christine Tio, winner of a P500,000 shopping bonanza promo, shows her shopping list.

Tio's other purchases included swimwear from Speedo, clothes, perfume, cosmetics, a DVD (digital video disc) player for her father, kitchenware for her mother, and a PlayStation for her sister's kids.

Of course, she did not forget the customary charitable institution, in this case, Focolare, an Italy-based lay Catholic organization that she is active in.

"I believe we should always share what we have. So I asked some people what they needed, but I'm giving them in kind," she said.

Focolare will receive a microwave oven, a coffee maker and other appliances from Tio when she returns to Cebu.

Observers noted that unlike Lejani Nitullano, the previous promo winner, Tio spent only three hours moving around the store on her shopping day.

"(Tio) is a systematic shopper, getting all the clothes she takes fancy to from one section and trying them all in a single trip to the fitting room," one of her escorts said.

For Tio, finishing early was part of the plan. She had to catch an early evening flight back to Cebu where her patients await.

Nitullano was also present during Tio's shopping day. Unlike Tio who only brought her mother along, Nitullano's coterie last December consisted of more than a dozen relatives who received a major portion of her winnings.

Store employees remembered working until 9 p.m. on a Sunday to accommodate Nitullano's group.

Nitullano had bought 10 television sets, three refrigerators, two DVD players, two washing machines and five cellular phones, most of which are now being enjoyed by relatives in Bicol.

She had spent only about P50,000 of her winnings on herself.

In an interview, Nitullano said that sometimes, she looked back at her unique experience and wished she had bought more for herself.

"I would have bought more clothes, bags, shoes and makeup items. But the important thing then was that I gave to my family. Sometimes I wished of winning again to buy more stuff for myself, but still, I would also buy things for them," she said.

Balikatan civic action sets stage for extension

From page A1

with another 280 Navy engineers and 60 US marines. The reinforcement effectively expands the scope of the exercises with more civic action projects. The Seabees are to build an aircraft landing strip to facilitate the exercises, pave roads and construct water systems and other civic action projects in Basilan.

The projects, labeled "Gentle Wind," have been justified by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez as part of the Balikatan's socioeconomic component. Naturally, because "Gentle Wind" is militarily inoffensive and introduces programs that can jump-start the economic development of Basilan as a depressed economy is well received by even the Muslim leaders of the province.

Civic action was the approach deployed by President Ramon Magsaysay side by side with his military campaign to crush the Huk rebellion of the 1950s. The civic action phase of the Balikatan has obviously taken a leaf from the Magsaysay success to "win the hearts and minds" of the people in the fight against communist rebels.

While the civic action aspect can mask the failure to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf, it can also set the stage for the extension of the exercises beyond July and to mute criticisms from nationalists and the Left that Balikatan is a stage toward the reinstatement of a longer US military presence in the country after it was evicted from its bases in Clark and Subic in 1992.

The evidence cited by these critics is the infrastructure that can serve military purposes to support US actions against international terrorism, from facilities in Southeast Asia, such as those in the Philippines.

Personally, I think the nationalists and the Left are extrapolating US military intentions too far ahead of what evidence warrants, but it might be reasonable to argue that civic action can soften criticisms on the lack of decisive military results against the Abu Sayyaf.

SWS survey

So far, the Macapagal administration has public opinion on its side, although it is not certain how long it can hold public approval if high expectations on annihilating the Abu Sayyaf are not met. The President approved the enlargement of the US forces in the Balikatan after she received results of the Social Weather Stations survey of March 2002.

According to the survey, a large majority of Filipinos backed US military presence in southern Mindanao, with 75 percent approving of their deployment zones and 60 percent saying American forces should stay in the zones as long as needed.

The survey further showed that 26 percent approved of the deployment of more than 1,000 US troops; 20 percent, of up to 1,000; and 33 percent, of hundreds.

More revealing is the finding that 59 percent disagreed with the statement that the presence of US soldiers interferes with the running of the country. This finding implicitly rejects the notion that the Visiting Forces Agreement, which provides the framework for the Balikatan, impairs national sovereignty. Most respondents have signified that there is no contradiction between the Balikatan and national sovereignty, and the nationalists and the Left cannot ignore this message without risking irrelevance.

The SWS survey followed a survey by Pulse Asia in December, which found "a strong sentiment" in favor of enlisting US help to fight the Abu Sayyaf. The SWS survey has not only emboldened the President in allowing the enlargement of the US contingent in the Balikatan.

Guingona

In domestic political terms, it has enabled her to make the decision overriding the objections of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.

After making some statements against the new deployment of the Seabees, Guingona withdrew his public objections following a briefing which emphasized its civic and socioeconomic aspects. Once again, Guingona has to beat a retreat in the face of strong public opinion favoring US military presence in an ever larger scale and longer period than allowed by the TOR.

While civic action constitutes a softer cutting edge than military combat, it takes a long time for its effects to blunt rebellion. If this were the case, we should expect the indefinite extension of the Balikatan, which seems to be a good thing if its main purpose is to build engineering infrastructure.

But its main purpose is understood to be to, first, crush the Abu Sayyaf, and secondly, to upgrade the fighting skills and capacity of Filipino soldiers to combat terrorism and rebellions.

The annihilation of the Abu Sayyaf is not in sight, and so the exercises are evolving into a long-drawn campaign of attrition where there is no clear-cut military victory. This is not what the people expect. They want the Abu Sayyaf wiped out first, then pour economic resources into the region.

Mayweather unimpressive

LAS VEGAS—Floyd Mayweather Jr. got the title he wanted, but not the impressive win he needed. In his first fight as a lightweight, Mayweather took the WBC 135-pound (60.75-kilogram) title from Jose Luis Castillo in a foul-filled bout that did little to showcase the talents of either boxer. Mayweather won 115-111 on two scorecards and 116-111 on the third ringside card. *AP*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Unbreakable sizzles anew

HOT Triple Crown candidate Unbreakable picked up his fourth straight victory by ruling the PCSO Grand Championship Cup yesterday at the Santa Ana Park. Unbreakable, ridden by Pat Dilema, bagged P600,000. Another favored bet sparkled in the day as What A Spell topped the Hopeful Stakes.

Kings, Pacers repulse rivals

Spurs, Hornets also prevail

SACRAMENTO, California—Just when the Utah Jazz finally figured out how to stay close with high-flying Sacramento, Chris Webber was there to pull out a victory for the top-seeded Kings.

Webber had 24 points and 12 rebounds and blocked a late 3-point attempt by Scott Padgett as Sacramento held off Utah 89-86 Saturday in Game 1 of their best-of-five series.

Webber hit a free throw with 7.1 seconds to go, providing the final margin, but he gave Utah a final chance by missing the second.

Padgett inbounded to Karl Malone, who kicked it back to Padgett. His 3-point attempt was blocked by Webber but the ball went back to John Stockton, whose 3-point try bounced high off the rim and was coming back down when Padgett got a hand on the ball and tried to slam it through.

Padgett, who had no reason to touch the ball because the Jazz needed three points, was called for offensive goaltending with 0.3 seconds left.

Pacers 89, Nets 83

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jermaine O'Neal's offense, Ron Artest's defense and Reggie Miller's playoff experience gave Indiana what it needed to beat New Jersey.

O'Neal scored all but two of his 30 points in the first three quarters, Artest came up with three steals in a critical span of the fourth quarter, and Miller played his best down the stretch, leading Indiana in Game 1 of the first-round series.

With O'Neal showing off his inside-outside repertoire and Brad Miller contributing 18 points and 12 rebounds, Indiana's frontcourt dominated New Jersey's.

Jason Kidd had 26 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for New Jersey.

Reggie Miller finished with 17 points, including six in the fourth.

Spurs 110, Sonics 89

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan recorded the second triple-double of his career and Tony Parker scored 21 points as San Antonio overwhelmed Seattle in Game 1 of their first-round series.

Duncan finished with 21 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists in 37 minutes for the Spurs, who broke open a game that was tied at halftime by making 15 of 20 shots in the third quarter, including a 4-for-5 performance on 3-pointers.

Hornets 80, Magic 79

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Baron Davis, carrying the offensive load after Jamal Mashburn was hospitalized with flu-like symptoms, scored 28 points and had a key steal with 3 seconds left as Charlotte beat Orlando.

Mashburn, Charlotte's leading scorer at 21.5 points a game, started the game but bent over during a first-quarter timeout and vomited into a trash can next to the team's bench. *AP*

Lakers vs Blazers

SOLAR Entertainment continues its telecast of the 2002 NBA Playoffs today by airing on NBN-4 and the Solar cable channel the 10 a.m. opening game of the Los Angeles Lakers and Portland Trailblazers. Replay is at 8 p.m. Solar's NBA playoffs telecast is shown every Sunday, Monday and Thursday until the NBA Finals in June.

INDIANA'S Reggie Miller (right) unloads a three-point shot over New Jersey's Jason Kidd in the fourth quarter. The Pacers prevailed, 89-83, in Game 1 of their NBA playoff duel. AFP

Shell beats SLR, snaps losing run

By June Navarro

SHELL thrived from the three-point area to repulse Sta. Lucia Realty, 95-76, and end its stint in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup with a sense of decency last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Askia Jones and rookie playmaker Rency Bajar rained eight triples in the second half as the Turbo Chargers snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Jones drained seven of his 11 attempts from the trifecta territory and finished with 41 points on top of nine rebounds and five assists, while the 5-foot-8 Bajar came with three crucial triples in the stretch to wind up with a career-high 13 markers.

Shell coach Perry Ronquillo said Bajar, who signed a one-month contract with the Turbochargers to pinch hit for the ailing Dale Singson and Gerry Esplana, would be highly recommended to be a regular fixture on Shell's roster.

"We will definitely extend his (Bajar) contract and judging from his performance I will personally recommend him to the management," said Ronquillo after tasting his first victory in more than two months.

The last time the Turbo Chargers smelled the scent of triumph was on Feb. 17 when they dumped Coca-Cola, 90-82.

The Realtors, who concluded their elimination odyssey at 5-6, will grab the seventh seat going in the next phase and meet the second-seeded Coca-Cola Tigers in the quarterfinals.

Although the Turbo Chargers already bombed out of the quarterfinals with a 2-9 record, Ronquillo was all praises for his wards, emphasizing that after months of searching they finally got the right import mix in Jones and Sedric Webber.

Webber, a 6-foot-6 slasher out of College of Charleston in the United States, had limited playing time but possessed the stuff the Turbo Chargers have long been waiting for.

In the second game, Alaska dumped San Miguel Beer, 74-58, and grabbed the No. 4 seat going into the quarterfinals.

The Aces, who finished their elimination stint at 6-5, will face the FedEx Express bearing a twice-to-beat edge on Thursday.

Ending their elimination trip sporting a 5-6 record, the Beermen plummeted to No. 8 and will meet top seed Talk N Text tomorrow at the start of the quarterfinals.

Scores:

SHELL 95—Jones 41, Webber 16, Bajar 13, Dela Cruz 9, Hrabak 5, Del Rosario 4, Lim 4, Calaguio 3, Sison 0, Canlas 0, Bacani 0.

STA. LUCIA 76-Thomas 30, Ortiguerra 12, Mendoza 12, Davis 9, Adriano 5, Falcasantos 4, Victolero 2, Francisco 2, David 0. Orquillas 0.

Quarters: 16-18, 36-39, 61-57, 95-78

John O eyes solo lead

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Complex)
4 p.m.—John-O-Juzz vs Kutitap
6 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Montaña

TOURNAMENT revelation John-O-Juzz shoots for the solo lead as it tackles Kutitap today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

A victory will give the spirited Juzzers their fifth victory in six outings, good enough for the solo leadership. They are presently tied for the lead with the ICTSI-La Salle Archers with 4-1 win-loss card.

Kutitap (3-1), however, isn't going to go down without a fight. Koy Banal's Sparklers possess the talent and desire to stop coach Manny Dandan's wards. The Sparklers like to play it deliberate and are known for their stingy defense.

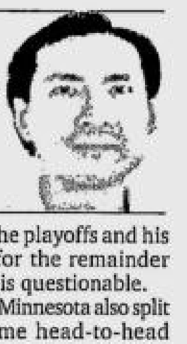
The Kutitap-John-O-Juzz tussle is set at 4 p.m., followed by the 6 p.m. game between Blu Sun Power and Montaña Jewels, two teams which haven't translated their solid rosters into victories.

Montaña will try to erase the bitter memory of a 71-99 beating it received from John-O-Juzz last Friday. The 28-point losing margin was the worst this conference.

Dennis Eroa

Sacramento favored

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

IN addition to the LA Lakers-Portland matchup, Game One of which will be aired live locally on ESPN International through cable television today starting at 5:30 a.m. (top Lakers reserve Robert Horry may not be available due to hematoma under his abdominal muscle), the other first-round, best-of-five series in the Western segment of the 2002 NBA playoffs are Sacramento vs. Utah, San Antonio vs. Seattle and Dallas vs. Minnesota.

Expect Sacramento to finish off Utah in a minimum three games. The Kings whipped the Jazz in all four meetings during the regular wars by an average margin of nearly 23 points. In their series opener yesterday, Sacramento won 89-86 at the Arce Arena behind All-Star forward Chris Webber's 24 points and 12 rebounds.

San Antonio and Dallas are favored to win their own series against Seattle and Minnesota, respectively, in four games or less. The Spurs, who split their four-game regular series with the SuperSonics, already are a game up following yesterday's 110-89 success at the Alamodome as top MVP candidate registered a triple-double with 21 points, 10 rebounds, 11 assists and five blocked shots. A fly in the ointment: Duncan's Twin Towers partner, David Robinson, sat out the entire second half with a sore back. "The Admiral" has been known to disappear (figuratively speaking) during the playoffs and his availability for the remainder of the series is questionable.

Dallas and Minnesota also split their fur-game head-to-head regular duel. The two teams play a similar style—run and gun—and the Mavs, who own a franchise-best 57-25 mark, rank first in the majors an offense while the T-Wolves, who went into a tailspin in February and March but nonetheless managed to equal their franchise-best 50-32 record, are fifth.

Their series opener will be held at the American Airlines Center today (Manila time). Mavericks All-Stars Dirk Nowitzki (sprained left ankle) and Steve Nash (sore back) are hurting but are expected to suit up. Dallas included Chinese star Wang Zhizhi on its 12-man playoff roster but left out Avery Johnson (the only Maverick with an NBA title ring—in 1999 with San Antonio), Tariq Abdul-Wahad and Danny Manning.

In the East, the first-round pairings are 1-New Jersey vs. 8-Indiana, 2-Detroit vs. 7-Toronto, 3-Boston vs. 6-Philadelphia and 4-Charlotte vs. 5-Orlando.

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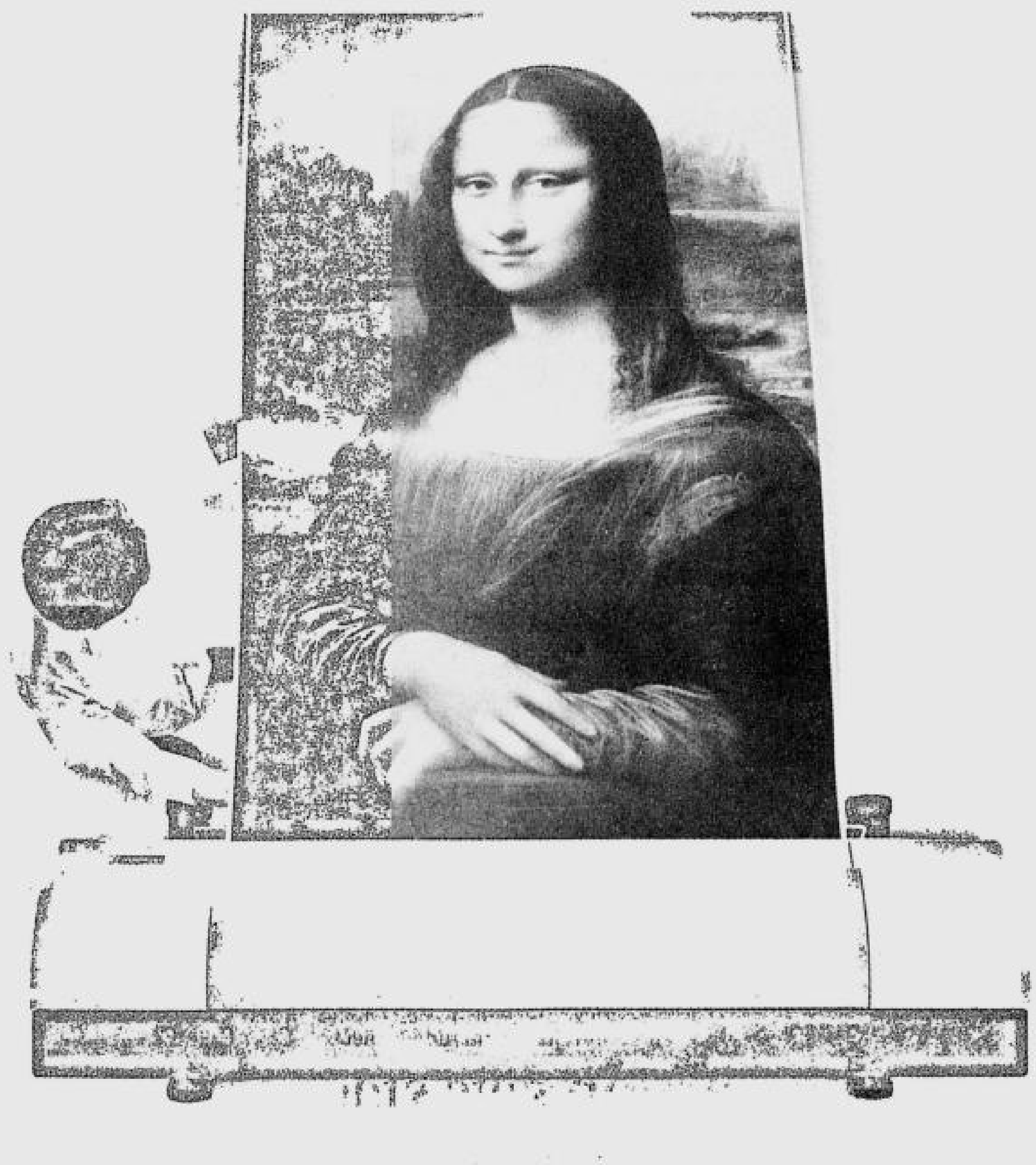

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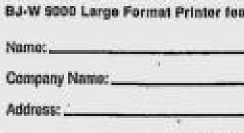

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Canon

Volunteers trip Stars; LBC wins

By Roy Luarca

GAME TODAY (Cebu Coliseum)
6 p.m.—CDO vs Cebuana Lhuillier

SAN FABIAN, Pangasinan—When in form, the Olongapo Volunteers are a potent force.

Showing too much depth and firepower, the Volunteers dumped the Pampanga Stars, 94-75, yesterday and gained a share of the lead in the MBA First Conference at the CDCC Gym here.

Powered by Eugene Tan, Jeffrey Flowers and Brixter Encarnacion, the Volunteers led by as many as 22 points en route to their fourth win in five games that leveled them with the RCPI Negros Slashers.

Tan, doing almost everything, was named best player of the game after finishing with 17 points, nine assists, two steals and two rebounds. Flowers, on the other hand, fired a game-high 28 points aside from grabbing 10 rebounds for the Volunteers of Coach Junel Baculi.

Encarnacion, the prime recipient of Tan's passes, wound up with 18 points as he, Flowers and Henry Fernandez pushed the Volunteers ahead, 66-42, with 2 minutes and 25 seconds to go in the third quarter. Fernandez contributed 17 points.

The Stars countered with a 13-point run stretching from the third quarter up to the early part of the fourth quarter to move to within 66-57.

It turned out to be their final stand, however, as the Volunteers finished them off with inside thrusts and occasional triples, including a stunning 30-footer by Flowers as he tried to beat the shot clock.

The Stars suffered their fourth defeat in five games and are near the cellar of the eight-team field.

LBC Batangas rode on last year's MVP Eddie Laure to subdue Osaka Pangasinan, 92-83, in the second game and improve to 1-2. Eddie Laure scored 24 points and snared 18 rebounds for the Blades, who pulled down the Waves to 2-3.

Scores:

OLONGAPO 94—Flowers 28, Encaranacion 18, Fernandez 17, Tan 17, Patrimonio 5, Dualan 4, Cardel 4, McCoy 1, Gonzales 0, Robinson 0.

PAMPANGA 75—Dela Rosa 15, Gascon 13, Santos 11, Melencio 10, Bansil 9, Mejia 6, Agustin 5, Bautista 4, Guinto 0, Ignacio 0, Liangco 0, Payne 0.

Quarters: 24-21, 39-33, 66-50, 94-75.

PBA unfair to Harp, Aquino

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ALREADY falling on hard and trying times, the Philippine Basketball Association is courting another king-size problem, making many people wonder how the organization, supposedly composed of the country's best and brightest minds in business and sports, could make such a boo-boo in connection with the handling of the national training pool for the forthcoming Busan Asian Games.

While there is still time, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino is well-advised to change right away the league's decision of barring certified crowd drawers like Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull and Marlou Aquino of Sta. Lucia Realty from rejoining their respective teams and play in the next conference which starts in June. They should not be made to wait for the season-ending All Filipino Cup in November-December this year before they could rejoin and play for their mother teams. This ruling is utterly unfair to both Harp (who made the Asiad team but begged off due to personal reasons) and Aquino and the others who took part in the rigorous tryouts to select the Asiad team such as Edward Juinio of Coca-Cola, Ali Peek of Alaska, man mountain EJ Feihl of Ginebra and Don Camaso of Talk N Text.

Why is it unfair to them? Because these players led by Harp and Aquino will not be playing competitive basketball from now on, sitting idly for the rest of the coming conference (Commissioner's Cup), while the others, which included battle-scarred Johnny Abarrientos of Coca-Cola (who was in the original list of Asiad team members but quit due to injury) and rookie Ren Ren Ritualo of Federal Express, were allowed to rejoin their clubs and see action in the next conference although they were, like Harp and Aquino, not joining the Busan bash.

"Where's fairness here?" asked one disgruntled basketball fan. "*Ano kaya ang* logic *ng* PBA *dito*? Worse, it appears that Harp, Aquino, Peek and the rest are being punished instead of being rewarded for taking part in the tryouts to serve the country. *Nakapagtataka*. After giving their services, *ang kapalit pala ay hindi na sila maka-paglalaro. Parang na*-suspended. Where's justice here?"

3 more nominees to Hall of Fame

THREE outstanding players of a bygone era are among the 11 worthy contenders in this year's National Basketball Hall of Fame third induction ceremony.

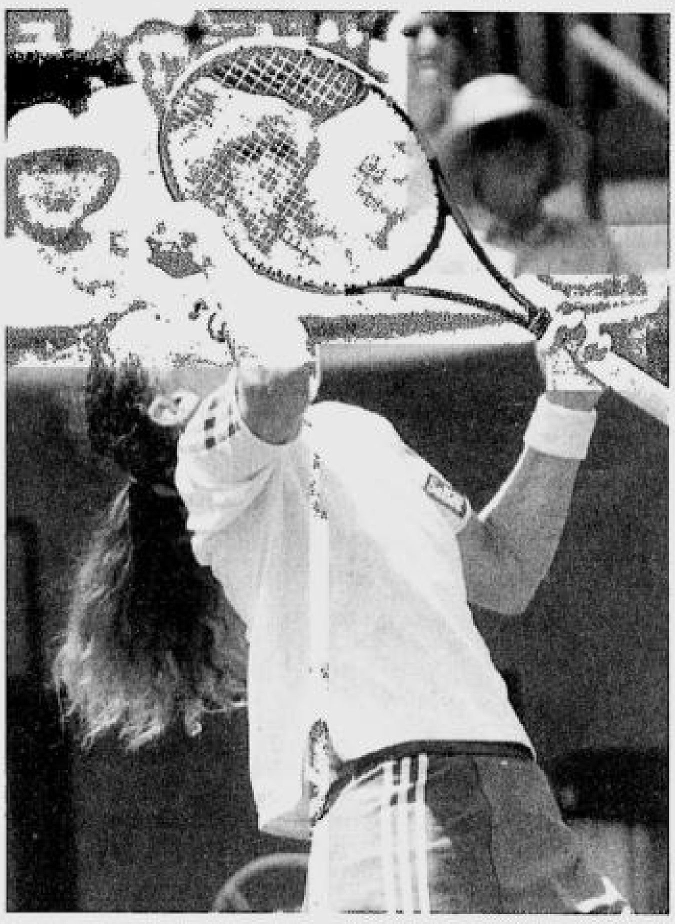
They are Alfonso "Boy" Marquez, Francisco Rabat and Mariano "Nano" Tolentino.

Marquez started playing for the Ateneo de Zamboanga High School team, then the University of the Visayas before coming to Manila to play for Ysmael Steel (from 1958 to 1967), the multi-titled Micaa and six-time National Open champion. An all-around player, Marquez could play center, forward and guard.

A product of the Ateneo, Rabat was barely 20 years old to become the youngest member of the Philippine team that won third place in the 1954 World Basketball Championship in Brazil. He was also a member of the team that emerged champion of the 1954 Asian Games hosted by Manila. Dubbed the "Rajah of the Rebounds" and "Galloping Stallion," Rabat joined Ysmael Steel Corp. in 1957 first as a salesman then personnel manager.

A legend in his time, the 6-foot-2 Tolentino was one of the greatest contributions of Jose Rizal College to Philippine basketball. A son of Bacoor, Cavite, Nano competed in two Olympics (Helsinki in 1952 and Melbourne in 1956), three Asian Games (New Delhi in 1951, Manila in 1954 and Tokyo in 1958), two World Basketball Championships (Rio de Janeiro in 1954 and Santiago, Chile, in 1959) and one ABC tournament (Manila in 1960). In the 1950s, Nano gained prominence in the Micaa, playing for Chelsea, Prisco, Heacock's and YCO, where he teamed up with Carlos Loyzaga. He died a poor man in Bacoor on May 23, 1998 after a heart attack.

According to Hall of Fame steering committee chair Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri, the final list of awardees will be announced by the Board of Trustees headed by Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., chair and vice chair, respectively.



GIANT KILLER

Unseeded Patty Schnyder of Switzerland rejoices after upsetting top seed Jennifer Capriati, 6-4, 6-3, in the semifinals of the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, South Carolina, on Saturday. Capriati's loss enabled Venus Williams to reclaim the world No. 1 ranking. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Galleros derby fires off today

ALL roads lead to the Casino Filipino-Parañaque today as it hosts the two-cock elimination of the P 1-M Galleros de Manila 5-Cock Derby. The three-cock finals of these bloody encounters of feathered pit fighters will be on Wednesday, April 24, 2002. Straight five fights will also be accepted on the final day. Big and small-time cocker-breeders such as ex-PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillosa, Mayor Nene Aguilar of Las Piñas, FTE & Jacpot, Allan Vicencio, Rey Ong, Vic Yu and many others will participate in these superb fights with an entry fee of P11,000. Galleros de Manila big names such as Iking Araneta, Jimmyton Araneta, William Go, Lito Alcantara, Emmitt San Juan, Gene Avendano, ASF, Jun Marasigan of Saipan and many others assure aficionados to give these respected cock-breeders a run for their money.

LGBA 6-cock meet tomorrow

THE LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 2nd Cockfighting Conference 6-Cock Derby unfolds tomorrow and on Thursday, April 23 and 25, with about 45 participants seeing action. The two-day cockfest will highlight the ongoing fierce battle for the coveted LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year award, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. Participants must submit their entries today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please contact 531-4005, 531-4003, 534-4110 and 535-2341 for details. Meanwhile, lawyer Ram Lopez and Tony Litonjua (Starwars Altuz) and OPMI president Vic Yu (Sir Vincent) ruled the 9th Ucap San Pedro GP Bacolod 7-Cock Derby last Thursday by posting 5.5 points each. Runner-up finishers with 5 points were Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo), Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez (EGTY Stingers), *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Hammer) and Raymond Velayo/Butch Halili (Arnis Master).

40 entries vying for crown

THE SPECIAL 4-cock derby of Las Piñas Cockpit, with the full backing of Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Parañaque, is all set on May 1. More than 40 entries are gunning for the championship and the top prize of P400,000. Entry fee is P11,000. The champion will also receive two refrigerators and P50,000 worth of casino chips from CF-Parañaque. Paying patrons will also receive casino chips. Proceeds of the derby will go the Clean and Green campaign in Las Piñas City, a priority project of Mayor Nene Aguilar. Co-host of the derby is Emmet San Juan of Galleros de Manila. Submission of weights is on derby day, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For other inquiries, please contact 873-1040.

Top cockers join Araneta meet

ANOTHER exciting NCA 7-Cock Derby will unfold today at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum featuring the very best fighting cocks of the country's most respected sportsmen-businessmen. Hosted by Gerry Fevidal and Jong Jong Morales, the derby lured the likes of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, former Rizal Gov. Ito Unares of Binangonan fame two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's Jun and Rudy Jingco, former PBA commisioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, recent World Slasher champion Dicky Lim, Mario Villamor, the Madlambayan brothers, Alex and Gerry Facalona, Boy Lechon and RQP, Louie Cua, Jessie Viceo, Vic Amante, Iking Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta.

Exalta reaches halfway mark

THE NISSAN Exalta GS Superio braved rainy weather from Bicol to Manila Saturday as the daredevil crew reached the halfway mark of its 30-day, non-stop journey around the country in the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon. When the illustrious Willie Ingles took over the driver's seat just before midnight of Saturday for his second assault of central Luzon, Cabalen country and Ilocandia, the Caltex Havoline odometer had a reading of 15, 876 kilometers. The Exalta arrived at Nissan-Mantrade at 10 p.m. after experiencing heavy traffic at the South Super Highway. Juvy Catajoy, Lester Susi and Ike Borja were on board that trip from Matnog, Sorsogon, down to the Big City as they are aiming to give Ingles a trouble-free ride to the north in preparation for its return to the Visayas for the third phase of the run.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Masters Series (Monte-Carlo), Men's Final at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Worldcom Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Oakland As vs Anaheim Angels at 8 a.m. (r – 10:30 p.m.) on ESPN

Leonard rips Classic mark

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina—Making up for years of frustration at Harbour Town, Justin Leonard shot a 5-under 66 Saturday to break the WorldCom Classic's 54-hole scoring record.

Leonard, who has never finished higher than 30th in the event and thought about skipping the tournament, has thrived on the Harbour Town's tight, tree-lined fairways and small greens.

He had seven birdies and two bogeys for a 16-under 197 total, surpassing the mark of 198 set by Hale Irwin in 1994 and tied by Loren Roberts two years later.

"Fifty-four-hole records are great,". said Leonard, who had a three-stroke lead.

He needs a 68 to tie Roberts' record of 265, set en route to the 1996 title. But that's more than Leonard's shot (67-64-66) in three rounds so far.

Leonard led Cameron Beckman by three strokes. Phil Mickelson, who matched Jack Nicklaus' 1975 scoring mark for the first two rounds, faded to a 1-over 72 and was tied with Heath Slocum (66), four shots behind. *AP*

UP golfest set May 15

THE UP Integrated School Class '77, as part of its silver jubilee celebration, will host the annual UPIS Alumni Open Golf Tournament on May 15, starting at 7 a.m., at the Langer Course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Alumni, faculty and friends of UP Elementary School, UP High School, UP Preparatory School and UP Integrated School are enjoined to support the tournament which seeks to generate funds for the upgrading of the school's libraries and facilities.

Tournament fee is P2,500. But players who pay their tickets on or before April 30, 2002 will get a P500 discount. Interested parties may contact Ms Leah Navarro at 0917-8981957, lawyer Chicho Bawagan at 0917-5412907 or lawyer Egay Tordesillas at egaytee@yahoo.com.

The tournament is presented by Globe Telecom and TPG/Prozinergy. Other sponsors are San Miguel Corp., Citibank, Whitehall and Viking Motors.

Bodybuilding finals at Padi's

THE GRAND finals of the exciting Mr. & Ms. Sexy Muscles bodybuilding contest will be held on April 30 at the Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar in Mindanao Avenue corner Congressional Ave., Quezon City.

Meanwhile, the expanded off-track betting area of Padi's Mindave now welcomes horseracing fans in the open-air garden. Padi's Mindave also holds the Mr. & Ms. Superbody Bikini Contest every Thursday night..

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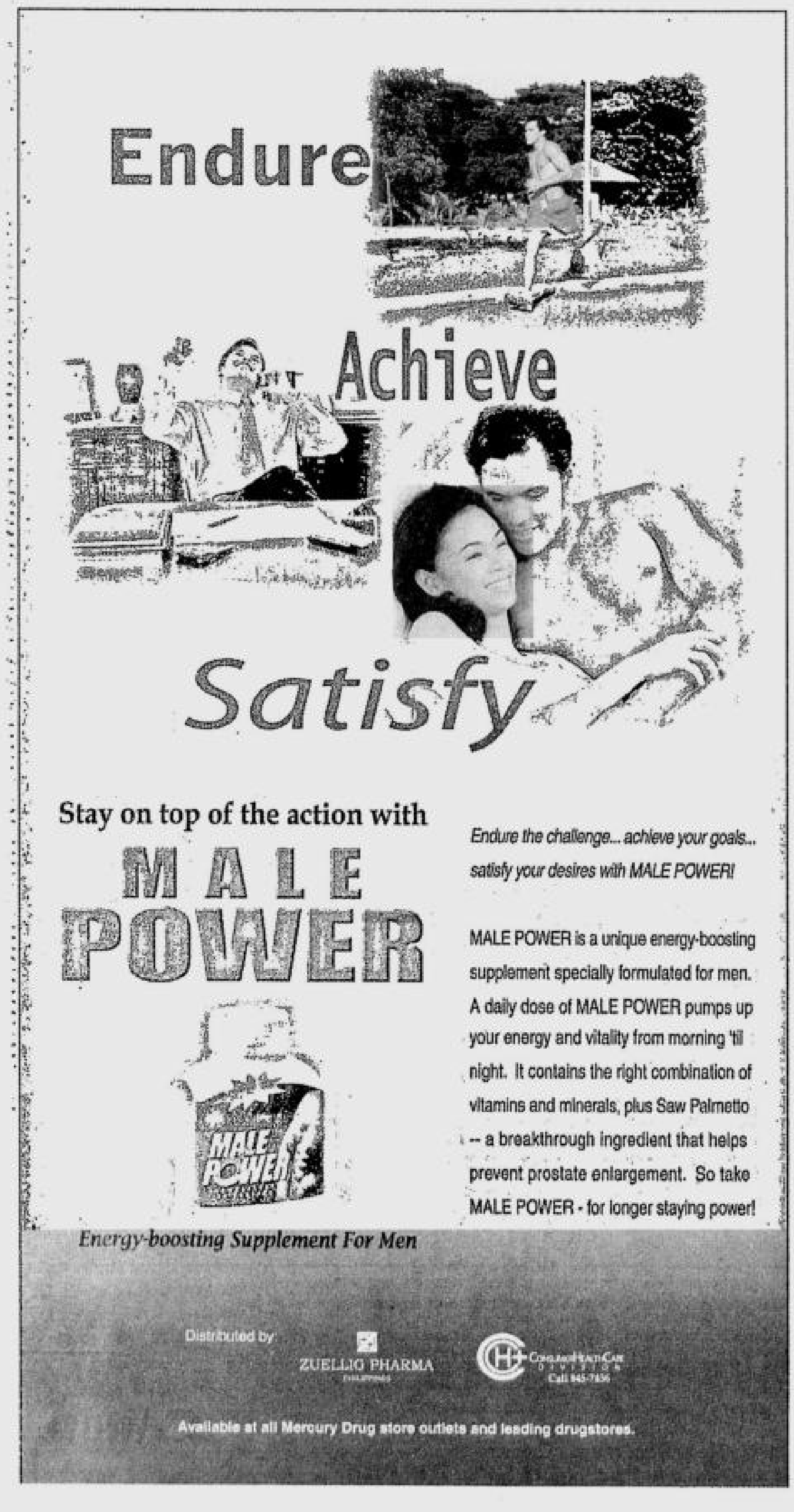
F1 ACES

TAG Heuer West McLaren drivers (front row from left) David Coulthard and Kimi Raikkonen display their new Kirium Formula One Chronograph before speeding into action recently. Also shown is teammate Alexander Wurst



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Wack Wack fund-raising tilt gets under way May 2

THE MANDALUYONG Chamber of Commerce and Industry is staging the MCCI Invitational Golf Tournament on May 2 at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Tee-off time is shotgun style at 7:30 a.m. after the registration starting at 6.

Final details of the event were made after a recent meeting of the tournament committee of the Mandaluyong Business Foundation, the community and outreach program arm of the MCCI headed by Rudy Samson and Ernie Medina as co-chair.

Tournament fee is P2,500 for non-members of Wack Wack and P1,500 for members.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos and MMDA chair Ben Abalos, also the honorary chair of MCCI, have been invited to hit the ceremonial balls together with MCCI president Robert Rivera and Dr. Eduardo dela Cruz, president of MBF. Other committee members are immediate past president Peter Kawsek, past president Celso Vivasand Mark Asperilla, president of the Rotary Club of Mandaluyong East.

Decor Gifts Inc., Loyola Educational System, Inc., Kawsek Inc./PNZ Packer and Uptown Industrial/Krisalis Construction are major sponsors.

Hole sponsors are Universal Computer Services, Security Banking Corp., Litton&Co., A-Z Direct Marketing, Lema Pharmaceutical, Sakura, Republic Chemical Industries, Saragota Insurance, Pyrene Industries, GP Sarmiento Trucking, Dr. Victor Potenciano Medical Center, Mandaluyong Ice & Cold Storage, Henry Uy, Far Eastern Polyclinic, Forty Winks, Secret Investigation&Security, Cosmopack, Supreme Baby Wear, Arbortowne Dev't and Prescorp.

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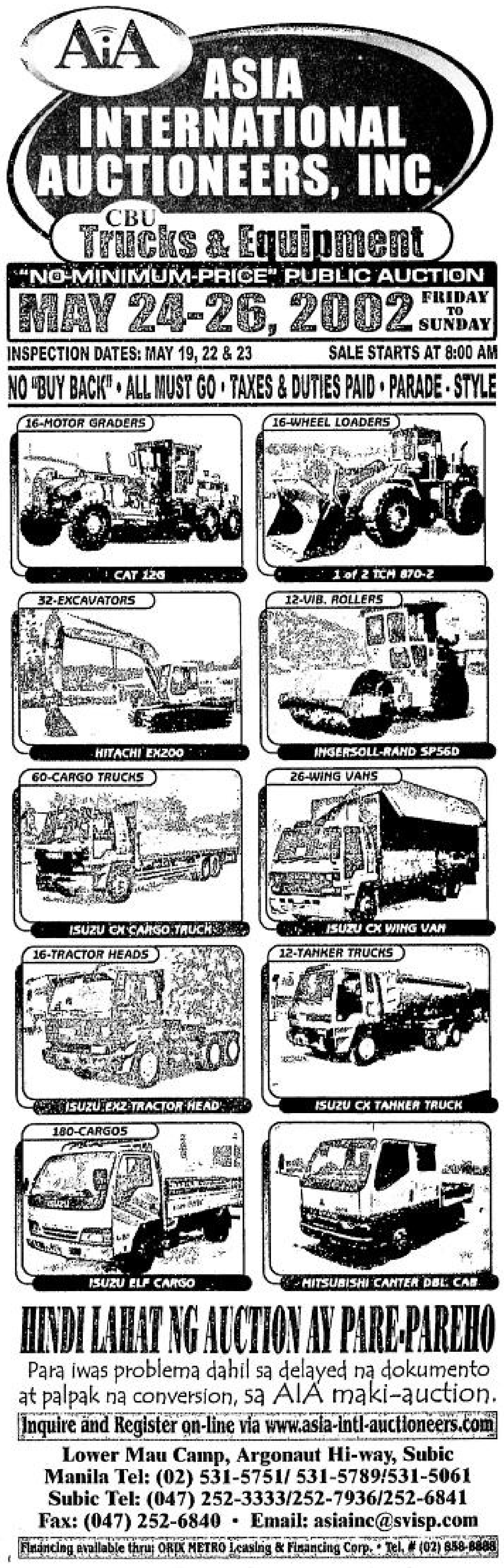

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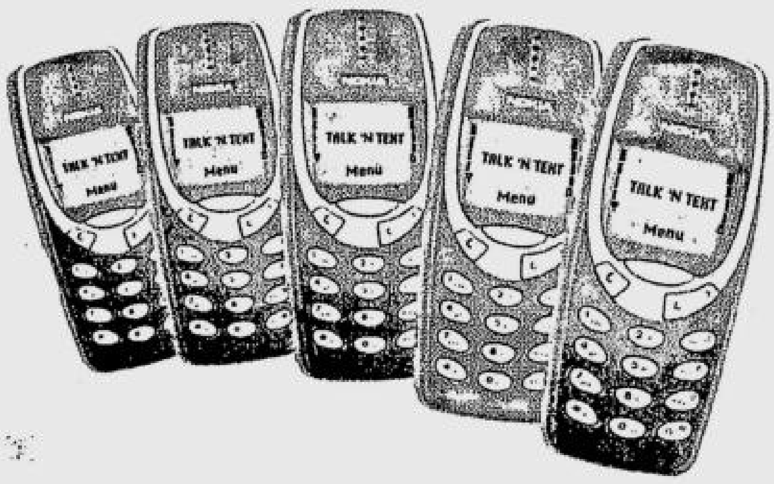

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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Bare Eye: Waiting for Gloria Macapagal Arroyo /A27
'Government refuses to admit mistake' /A26
Butcher sentenced to 17 years in jail /A26

PNCC to blame for traffic 'hell' in Alabang

By Christian V. Esguerra

MUNTINLUPA Rep. Ruffy Biazon is blaming the Philippine National Construction Corp. for the hellish traffic at the Alabang interchange, partly brought about by the huge volume of cargo trucks passing there.

Because of its defective weighing bridges, the PNCC banned all trucks from the Alabang viaduct and had required them to use the interchange located below the rickety elevated plank, Biazon said.

Che Che Perez, head of the PNCC corporate communications division, said the Department of Public works and Highways operate weighing bridges and not the PNCC.

The PNCC had prohibited trucks weighing over 20,000 tons from using the viaduct pending its repair. It was supposed to determine a truck's load through weighing bridges located at the entrance of the South Luzon Expressway in Calamba, Laguna and in Nichols in Taguig, Biazon said.

He said these bridges have not been functioning since last year, forcing the PNCC to close the viaduct to all trucks.

As a result, traffic at the two-way Alabang interchange has been perennially horrible especially during rush hours, according to Biazon.

Street vendors and undisciplined motorists further clog the area, turning it into a traffic bottleneck for vehicles coming from the southern portion of Metro Manila and from nearby areas.

Government incentives for tricycle drivers

By Abigail L. Ho

TRICYCLE drivers may now avail themselves of government incentives to help improve their livelihood.

Through the Koop Paradahan, Pook Sakayan (KPPS) program, tricycle operators and drivers may now get benefits that before were only available to cooperative ventures.

"This project aims to empower our tricycle drivers and operators through cooperativism," Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said in a statement last week.

The program is a joint venture between the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Alvarez said it aimed to transform tricycle operators and drivers associations nationwide into cooperatives to allow them access to government incentives like loans.

He said this could help improve the income of the over five million tricycle operators and drivers all over the country.

"This cooperative effort will not only improve income, (but) also help in policing their ranks because the drivers and operators will now be organized," Alvarez said.

The KPPS program also included possible funding for the establishment of tricycle terminals that would be operated and managed jointly by the tricycle operators and drivers.

Assistance will be coursed through the Office of Transportation Cooperatives (OTC), an attached agency of the DOTC. It will be tasked to draft a comprehensive action plan that will guide the two lead agencies in implementing the program.

The OTC will also be the one to recommend tricycle operators and drivers associations that will be qualified to avail themselves of government incentives.

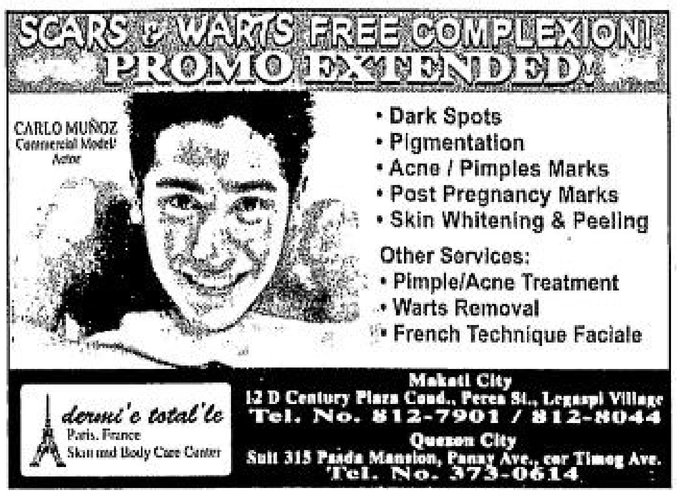
Tricycle operators and drivers first have to be part of a qualified association to be able to join the KPPS program, so Alvarez urged those that did not yet have an organization to join one.

Associations have to be duly registered with the OTC as well.

In a related development, OTC chair Jaime Domdom said in an earlier interview that the OTC will provide P50 million worth of loans to 50 qualified tricycle cooperatives nationwide.

This will be done through a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Postal Bank Corp.

Loans must primarily be used to upgrade existing tricycles into multicabs, tricycles that look more like mini jeepneys and can seat more than the five that an ordinary tricycle can usually accommodate.



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FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

'Government refuses to admit mistake'

By Christian V. Esguerra

FARMERS and fishermen yesterday urged the government to conduct a new environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the controversial Taguig-Rizal road dike project to determine how the dike would supposedly kill the Laguna Lake and destroy the livelihood of about 76,000 residents.

The government had refused to admit that the project is a mistake in coming up with the project, said Community Organizers Multiversity team leader Boy Marcelino. He said government is using a nine-year-old EIA to assure residents that the dike will solve the perennial flood problem in areas near the Laguna Lake, without posing any danger to the ecology.

"The DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) officials should see for themselves that our concerns are legitimate," said Marcelino. "Actually, the government knows that our complaints are valid. It just refuses to admit that it has made a mistake (in coming up with the project)."

Marcelino's group is assisting the Taguig Coalition Against Dike and the Laguna Lake-wide Convention Against Dike in protesting the P2.9-billion flood-control project.

Conducted sometime in 1993, the EIA apparently does not cover more recent environmental concerns spurred by the growth of population in the areas, according to Marcelino.

Aside from affecting the livelihood of residents living in the 17 coastal towns around the Laguna Lake, he said the project will also destroy large tracts of farmland.

The San Lorenzo Ruiz resettlement area in Taytay, Rizal, for example, will be submerged in deep floodwater should the construction of the 9.8-kilometer road dike proceed, he said.

The area is home to thousands of Joseph Estrada loyalists whom the jailed former president relocated there in 1985.

Marcelino said residents also fear that the dike will kill big-head carps and other species of fish in the lake. The carps are also known as "Imeldas," named after former First Lady Imelda Marcos who introduced them to the country.

DENNIS SABANGAN

PLAYING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Using their native Kuglong, Jun-jun Ily and Jo Tumindog (left), members of the Matigsalog tribe in Bukidnon, play their part for the environment and for the rights of the country's indigenous people during the Lakbay K-Tribo at the Quezon City circle.

Butcher sentenced to 17 years in jail

By Christian V. Esguerra

A BUTCHER was given a 17-year jail term for killing another butcher he suspected of having an affair with his common-law wife in Pasay City last year.

Judge Eleuterio Guerrero also ordered Alfredo Quello Jr. to pay the family of Pascual Datul P2,194,200 to compensate for the loss of income from the victim's earning capacity and P130,000 in damages.

Judge Guerrero found Quello guilty of stabbing dead Datul inside the Pasay City Public Market last Aug. 2.

Witness Arlene Sarmiento-Nicdao told the court that Datul and his cousin were about to eat in a canteen when Quello charged at the victim with a knife.

After a brief chase, Quello cornered Datul and stabbed him in different parts of his body, said Judge Guerrero's nine-page decision.

In his testimony, Quello did not categorically admit or deny that he stabbed Datul, but said he wounded Datul while they were grappling for possession of the knife.

He said the confrontation came after Datul's companion told him that the victim was having an affair with his live-in partner.

Quello was charged with murder, but the court relegated the case to homicide after the prosecution failed to prove the element of treachery in the killing.

AN OPEN LETTER TO
H.E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Dear Madam President:

In six weeks, what we... your loyal supporters in Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley Province... most dread may occur: an **OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE**. By that time, the 60-day Moratorium on the Cease and Desist Order implemented by the Local Government of Monkayo will expire.

A cabal of big businessmen, lawmakers, local government officials, the military, and the police will expectedly be upon us, and with guns and goons, will force us to stop from engaging in the only means of livelihood we know. We will resist this, certainly and no doubt there will be much bloodshed in the mining area of Mt. Diwata.

For your understanding, **Mayor Jose Brillantes** of the Municipality of Monkayo issued the Cease and Desist Order against us the small miners, claiming our mining activity caused the silting of the Naboc River. The issuance of the Cease and Desist Order is a very harsh action as there are more options to solve the siltation problem.

Obviously, the principal motive of Mayor Brillantes in issuing this order is to favor the interest of a big mining company, which is working tooth-and-nail to eject the small miners from Mt. Diwata, the **Southeast Gold Mining Corporation (SEM)**. To say the least, because the Mayor being the President and major stockholder of the **JB Management Mining Corporation (JBMMC)**, is a business associate of the SEM as stated in the Memorandum of Agreement entered into by and between SEM and JBMMC.

Among the cohorts of Mayor Joel Brillantes in the drive to eject the small miners from Mt. Diwata are:

1. **TEODORO BERNARDINO**, the businessman who is a top corporate officer of SEM. He is not only contented with exploiting the timber of PICOP area but also the gold deposit of Mt. Diwata;
2. **MAJOR ROGER MADALOGDOG**, Commander of the 60th IB Philippine Army who assigned his troops to accompany Mayor Brillantes to Mt. Diwata to intimidate the small miners. The wife of this officer, **ROWHILDA MADALOGDOG**, is a stockholder and a member of the Board of Directors of the JBMMC as evidenced by the Articles of Incorporation of the said company; and
3. **GEN. EDUARDO MATILLANO**, the police regional commander of Region XI who has later become sympathetic to Mayor Brillantes' personal interest particularly in dominating the mining industry in Mt. Diwata.

They are indeed our oppressors who are determined to take whatever measures necessary in order to obliterate the small miners so the cabal takes full concession authority over the 4,941 hectares comprising the gold rush area. Worst, their pursuit for personal gain has already claimed so many lives in the mining area. For a fact, the death toll of mining related crimes in Mt. Diwata reached to 82 persons from 1999 to 2001 alone.

But we are also equally determined to stand against those oppressors. We can not simply surrender our claim, considering that we have been living here in Mt. Diwata for the past two decades and even before Marcopper and subsequently its sister corporation, SEM had applied for a mning claim.

There are about 40,000 miners and residents in Mt. Diwata. Each one dreams that the government will finally recognize his rights as legitimate miner of Mr. Diwata. We have been seeking for a peaceful resolution to our legal struggle to ultimately get a piece of land to mine.

Your Excellency, we beg you to intervene now before the moratorium expires. We do not ask for much. All we are asking is for is the government to absolutely legalize our mining activities in Mt. Diwata.

Rest assured that we are supportive of your programs. We are also strongly endorsing the immediate confirmation of Sec. Heherson T. Alvarez by the Commission on Appointments, in recognition of his efforts to protect the environment while providing the people of Mt. Diwata the opportunities to earn a decent living.

We are confident that your administration, if it so wills, can soon set in place a solid lasting program that will completely and satisfactorily address our claim.

In behalf of the people of Mt. Diwata, please help us, Madam President.

Very respectfully yours,

FRANCO J. TITO
Barangay Chairman
Barangay Mt. Diwata

Policeman loses car to thieves

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICEMAN Dennis Reci vowed to protect the people, but he wasn't able to protect himself from three car thieves in Manila.

Reci, 25, of 233 Onyx St. San Andres Bukid, Manila lost his red Mitsubishi Lancer (with plate number TAF-535) at gunpoint on Saturday night to three unidentified men, two of whom were also armed with knives, police said.

He also lost his 9mm service pistol, worth P35,000; a P20,000 Pentium 33 computer, and a homemade .22 pistol, police said.

Reci told investigators that the .22 pistol was a piece of evidence in one of the cases he was handling while the computer unit belonged to a certain "Atty. Ignacio."

Investigation showed that the incident occurred at 7:45 p.m. on T.M. Kalaw Street in Ermita, Manila.

Reci told police the three car thieves suddenly appeared, approached him, and announced the holdup. He said he was not able to resist the suspects, who were too fast for him. He said they ganged up on him before he could grab his pistol.

At gunpoint, the suspects took control of his car and then drove away in it, he said.

Reci said he then reported the theft to the Ermita police station but was referred to the anti-carnapping (Ancar) unit of the Western Police District. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, April 22, 2002
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 11:1-18**
Gospel: **Jn 10:11-18**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. Not so the hired hand or any other person who is not the shepherd and to whom the sheep do not belong. They abandon the sheep as soon as they see the wolf coming; then the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep. This is because the hired hand works for pay and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own knows me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father. Because of this I give my life for my sheep.

I have other sheep that are not of this fold. These I have to lead as well, and they shall listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock since there is one Shepherd.

The Father loves me because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down freely. It is mine to lay down and to take up again: this mission I received from my Father."

Commentary

Jesus is ready to lose his own that we might have life. He is a true shepherd, totally committed. He laid down his life freely, with his whole heart, and so death was conquered. Had Jesus cursed us from the cross, evil would have won the day and the resurrection could not have happened, for it is Love's triumph. To have laid down his life for us is an immense joy for Jesus, a joy that can only be understood by one who loves. It is the joy that martyrs feel when their suffering is over and all that remains is to know they have given all. It is the Father's joy in Jesus, and in us as we walk with Jesus in mission, not as a hired hand but with the commitment of love.

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METROBRIEFS

Ex-con accused of rape

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl accused former Muntinlupa inmate Antonio dela Cruz, 56, of raping her after enticing her with chocolate bars. Dela Cruz, 56, of Sitio Pinagpala, Victoria Homes, Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa, was arrested on Friday for allegedly raping the girl on April 12. PO3 Ronnie Tamondong said Dela Cruz told the girl he would give her some chocolate bars if she would go with him to a grassy lot in Victoria Homes. There the suspect allegedly raped the girl about 3 p.m. on April 12. Police said the girl did not tell her family about the rape. But the girl's parents found out about the rape on Friday and went to the Muntinlupa police station to file a complaint. Dela Cruz was arrested at his home and detained at the police station. Police learned the suspect was a Muntinlupa inmate who was out on parole when the rape took place. *Alcuin Papa*

Cop kills robber

A ROBBER stabbed PO3 Ronnie Sanchez three times in Tondo, Manila on Saturday morning, but that did not stop the lawman from shooting dead the suspect. Sanchez suffered a stab wound in the chest, left side of the body and in the back, police said. He is now confined at the Mary Johnston Hospital. Sanchez shot the robber once in the chest, killing him instantly. Homicide investigator SPO2 Edison Bertoldo said Sanchez spotted the suspect and three other men, just as they were about to rob a woman at the corner of Juan Luna and Dagupan streets in Tondo at 10:30 a.m. One of the suspects slashed the unidentified woman in the face before they turned on Sanchez, a member of the Asuncion police community precinct, police said. The suspect then turned on Sanchez, who drew out his 9-mm pistol and shot the robber at pointblank. *Jerome Aning*

Body fished out of bay

THE BODY of an unidentified man believed to be a victim of summary execution was found floating in Manila Bay near the Manila International Container Terminal. The victim's head and body were wrapped in plastic, police said. Police described the victim as about 30 to 35 years old and 5-foot-5 inches tall. Tattooed on the victim's shoulders and arms were the names "Jun Daton," "Jr. Vergara," "Nelson B," and "Tony Albor." The word "Sputnik" was also tattooed on his right side. The victim could have been strangled before his body was thrown into the bay, according to city police homicide head Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban. *Jerome Aning*

Curfew on funeral wakes

THE MAKATI City Council wants to impose a curfew on funeral wakes and vigils in the city in an effort to curb illegal activities, particularly gambling, during such occasions. Draft Ordinance No. 2002-038 seeks to limit up to 1 a.m. all vigils and wakes in private houses, funeral parlors, community chapels, barangay halls, and similar areas in Makati. City residents and others concerned will be invited to a public hearing on April 23, to coincide with the ordinance's second reading. City Councilor Israel Crusado, proponent of the ordinance, said the wakes are a source of inconvenience to residents of a community, and are widely used as an excuse by minors to violate the 1 a.m. citywide curfew. City Mayor Jejomar Binay earlier urged the council to study the imposition of a curfew to stop gambling and other unlawful activities, which are held during funeral vigils. The ordinance prescribes a penalty of P500 to P5,000 and imprisonment for violators. *Alcuin Papa*

Taguig officials face charges

TWO Taguig officials are facing charges before the Metropolitan Trial Court for their alleged refusal to return two government-owned vehicles to the municipality. Jimmy Quilatan, barangay captain, and Ryanne Gutierrez, Sangguniang Kabataan chair, allegedly refused to return two Honda Civic cars to the General Services Office, despite a memorandum order from municipal administrator Wilfredo Villar, according to a statement from the Taguig local government. Rizal provincial prosecutor Gregorio Arizala found Quilatan and Gutierrez liable for violating the Revised Penal Code, which penalizes a public officer who refuses "to deliver any property in his custody or under his administration" despite being ordered by a competent authority, said the statement. Villar on Thursday announced that the municipal government will also go after councilors who refuse to surrender vehicles the GSO issued to them. *Christian Esguerra*

Robbery suspect shot

ON HIS way to work at the Plaza Lawton police community precinct, PO2 Margarito de Quito stopped by Sampaloc, Manila to shoot a fleeing robber. De Quito shot suspected robber Jaime Marigsa, 34, of Antipolo Street, Sampaloc, following a brief chase Thursday night, police said. Investigators found a fan knife, pieces of jewelry and P10,000 in cash on the suspect, police said. Marigsa allegedly robbed jeepney passengers Lualhati Gutierrez and Rosanna Torrera about 8 p.m. Thursday near Pardo Street in Sampaloc. The victims sought the help of barangay officials who, in turn, chanced on De Quito, who was on his way to Lawton. They searched for Marigsa and caught up with him just as he was about to board a jeepney. Marigsa saw his pursuers and tried to escape, police said. But the authorities gave chase, calling on the suspect to stop. When Marigsa refused, De Quito took out his 9-mm service pistol and shot the suspect in the thigh to slow him down. The authorities took Marigsa to the Tondo General Hospital for treatment. *Philip Tubeza*

Waiting for Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

BARE EYE

Recab Trinida

THE VICTIM says she's 38, a single parent.

She calls herself a daughter of Pampanga, ("Taal na Pampangueña") like the President of the Republic .

Adelaida G. Maniago, displaced by the Mt. Pinatubo explosion, is beset by a horrifying problem.

After being uprooted, driven away from her birthplace by rampaging lahar, she now resides in St. Dominic 11, San Vincente, Tarlac.

She has three children, all boys, aged 19, 17 and 14.

Her problem, she says, is Paolo, the youngest, who had a kidney transplant last year at the National Kidney Institute.

The poor mother swears she has sold everything in a bid to save her youngest boy.

Of course, she also could not find time to work and earn a little since all her time has been spent attending to her very sick son.

She takes some consolation in the fact that Paolo, with his new kidney, has gotten a new lease on life.

All things considered though, she can't claim real solace.

For one, the new organ has not been functioning well.

There were impossible times when the mother could no longer recognize her youngest kid.

The sick boy would appear very strange, like someone raised from grave.

He would retch, scream and throw up. His face would assume greenish, deathly hues.

Naturally, the poor, penniless mother would always run out to beg and borrow, beg and borrow.

She has been scratching the earth in a frantic bid to buy anti-rejection medicines to calm down the son's new, restive kidney.

* * *

That's not all. The poor woman has another equally terrifying problem.

She has borrowed P300,000 for her son's operation. The sum, the unpaid interests included, must've doubled by now, she surmises.

***"Sa ngayon po ay hindi kami nakakabayad dahil inuuna namin ang pagbili ng gamot,"* she explains.**

She's being hounded by a terrible fear.

She says she would wake up in the middle of night hearing angry voices.

Yes, she's forever afraid of being booted out from their small house.

She says she can bear being homeless, if that's her fate.

But then, she asks, how does she care for his sick son out in the streets? (*"Takot na takot po akong ipagtabuyan sa aming tahanan ng taong aming pinagkakautangan."*)

Adelaida Maniago, who also calls herself a native of Bamban, Tarlac, has no known enemy.

But the poor woman has been running scared.

She says she's willing to personally talk to anyone to explain her case.

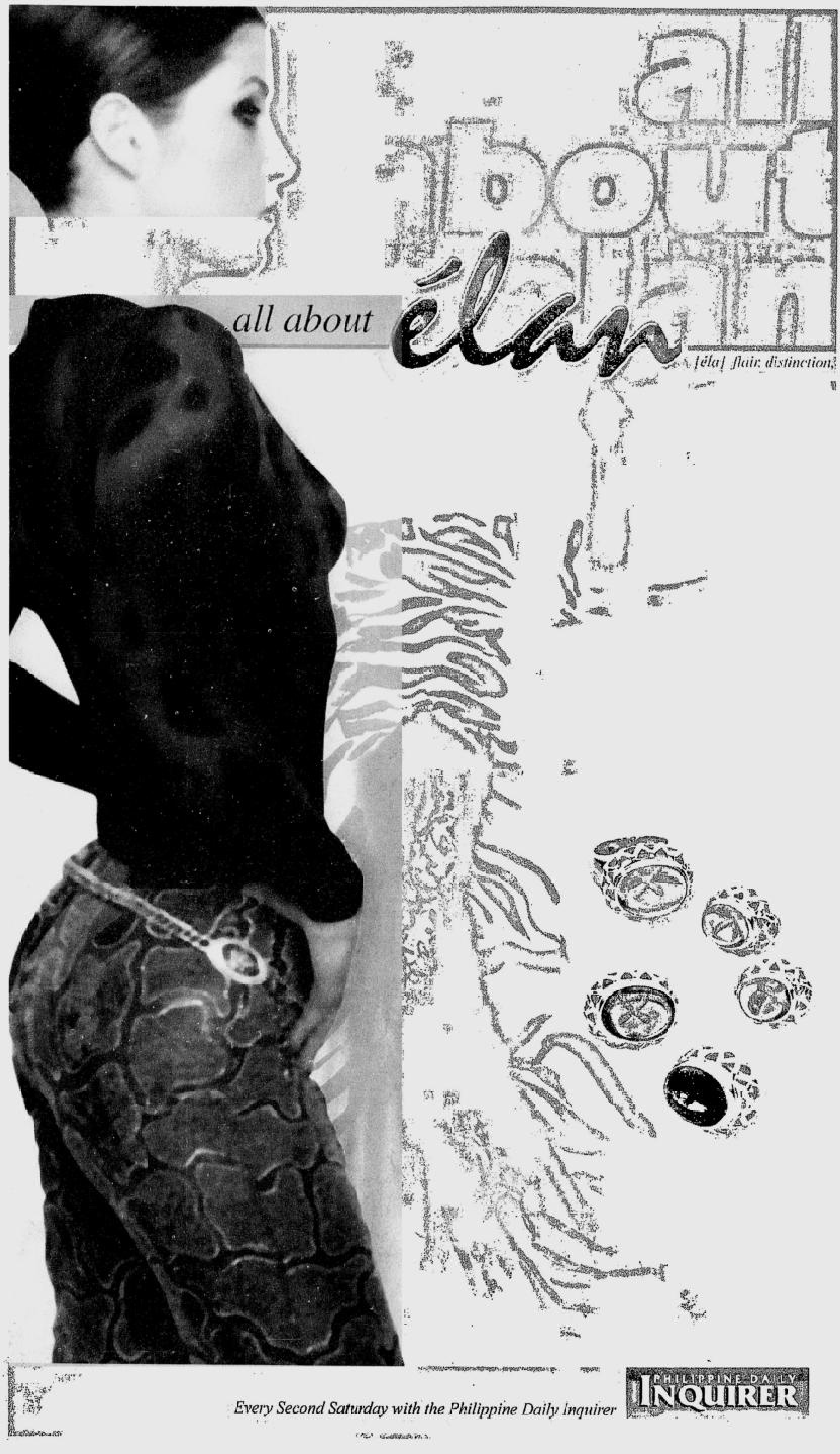
She has written the INQUIRER and begged us to, please, help her so the President would learn of her hopeless fate.

Begs the poor victim: *"Alam ko pong malaki ang inyong magagawang tulong upang maipaabot sa ating Mahal na Pangulo, kapwa ko Kapampangan, ang aking karaingan, at kung mamarapatin at hindi malaking abala ay handa akong makipag-usap kaninuman upang lubos ninyo akong maunawaan."*

She says she would walk all the way from Tarlac to Malacañang for the President to hear her plea.

Her letter was dated April 11, 2002.

The devastated mother is begging for an answer.



Every Second Saturday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Actor Robert Urich dies of cancer

ROBERT Urich, the versatile TV actor who starred 15 shows over his 30-year career, died Tuesday of cancer. He was 55.

Urich died in Thousand Oaks, California, surrounded by family and friends, according to publicist Cindy Guagenti.

The actor announced in 1996 that he was suffering from synovial cell sarcoma, a rare cancer that attacks the body's joints, and underwent several treatments to fight the cancer during the last years of his life.

Urich was an almost constant presence on TV during his career. In fact, according to the trivia book "10,000 Answers: The Ultimate Trivia Encyclopedia" (Random House Reference, 2001), Urich holds the record for starring in the most TV shows, with 15.

His credits include "Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice" (1973), "SWAT" (1975-76), "Soap" (for its first season, 1977-78), "Vegas" (1978-81) and "Spencer: For Hire" (1985-88).

Among his memorable TV roles are the captain on "Love Boat: The Next Wave" and a talent agent on the short-lived sitcom "Emeril."

URICH

The actor also appeared in a handful of theatrical films, including "Magnum Force" (1973) and "Turk 182! " (1985).

First costar

Urich was born in Toronto, Ohio, on Dec. 19, 1946. A star athlete in high school, he won a football scholarship to Florida State University, where he took a bachelor's degree in communications. He later earned a master's degree from Michigan State in broadcast research and management, and went to work in the broadcasting business as a salesman for Chicago's WGN.

After a short stint as a TV weatherman, he received his break as an actor when Burt Reynolds, another Florida State alumnus, helped him land a role playing Reynolds' younger brother onstage in a production of Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker."

On the small screen, Urich's first role was as Bob Sanders in "Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice," the 1973 TV version of the 1969 Paul Mazursky film about mate-swapping. The show didn't last even the customary 13 weeks of one season before being canceled. But Urich landed on his feet, appearing as a Los Angeles police officer in "SWAT" two seasons later.

In the following 25 years, he was never out of a regular series for more than three seasons, and he frequently appeared in TV movies and documentary specials.

Disease

In July 1996, while doing "The Lazarus Man," Urich told the production company that he had cancer, but that he'd be able to perform. Nevertheless, Castle Rock stopped production a month later.

In his breach-of-contract suit, Urich sought the amount, about $73,000 an episode, he would have received for a second season.

The actor became active in cancer research in the late '90s, establishing a fund, the Heather and Robert Urich Fund for Sarcoma Research, with his wife, actress Heather Menzies, whom he married in 1974.

Earlier this year, Urich donated his $125,000 winnings from a February appearance on "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" to a fund at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he was treated.

He received the Gilda Radner Courage Award from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, and was named national spokesperson for the American Cancer Society in 1998.

Urich is survived by his wife; three children, Allison, Ryan and Emily; two brothers; a sister; and his mother.

A memorial service was held Friday at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in North Hollywood. *CNN*

'I AM SAM'
Academy Award nominee Sean Penn plays Sam Dawson, a mentally challenged father who raises his seven-year-old daughter Lucy (Dakota Fanning), with the help of an extraordinary group of friends in director Jessie Nelson's compelling drama, "I Am Sam." The film is a powerful, emotional film about love, parenthood and the bonds of family. Also starring is Michelle Pfeiffer as Rita Harrison, a high-powered, self-absorbed attorney who takes Dawson's case pro-bono as a challenge from her colleagues. Others in the cast are Richard Schiff, Loretta Devine and Laura Dern, with Doug Hutchison, Stanley DeSantis, Brad Allan Silverman and Joseph Rosenberg.

Having a ball while eating at Café Bola

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'M probably one of the last to have tried the gastronomic treats of Café Bola in Araneta Coliseum, but I am now a devotee.

I've read many features about the place and friends have raved about their "comfort food." My make-up artist **Bambbi Fuentes** had mentioned to me several months ago that I'd enjoy their *tapa, longganisa,* and their *tuyo* fillets. I love breakfast fare, and normally have it when I've missed my normal mealtimes.

My cousin **Rina** said that since I love fresh fruit juices, I'd love their fresh *kamias* or pomelo shake.

I was rushing several nights ago, trying to get all my errands out of the way, from fittings to viewing some condo units to possibly move into in the next few months, to picking up earrings I had re-set, to settling on a new cellphone and changing my subscription plan to take advantage of my carrier's special offer, that it was nearly 10 p.m. when I was hit with desperate hunger pangs.

My cousin Rina was at her friend **Malou's** home in Cubao and they both suggested going to Café Bola. Both had tried to be good and just have fruits for dinner but they were also starving and found a perfect excuse to eat.

Malou is **Margarita Fores**' sister-in-law, and she said that we'd make it in plenty of time since Café Bola stays open until late whenever there's a cockfight at the Coliseum.

As luck would have it, Margarita was in Café Bola doing an interview with **Cher Calvin** for F. She enthusiastically told me that Cibo in ABS-CBN's 9501 Building was already open.

Alvin, the restaurant manager, highly recommended the spaghetti with *dulong* in creamy parmesan. *Dulong* is a tiny fish that you sauté in olive or corn oil with lots of garlic. This is served as an appetizer over crisp, toasted French baguette slices. I love it, but Margarita innovated and mixed it with a creamy, slightly cheesey mixture that lessened the possible *lansa* of the fish.

Wow, this dish is to die for! You never feel the *umay* or *sawa* feeling as you might with carbonara, plus you feel virtuous since you get the "good," heart healthy cholesterol from the fish and olive oil.

This went perfectly with the *kamias* shake. There was a tangy, citrusy flavor, so refreshing because it was tempered with sweetness. The green color was attractive and summery to the eye. This fresh fruit icy shake is an excellent antidote to the richness of the pasta.

I pigged out that night and also indulged in *tuyo* fillets and scrambled egg over *sinangag*. The *tuyo* which was tender to the bite, came with this fabulous dipping sauce. It was Margarita's version of salsa. There was finely chopped tomatoes with a whole red *sili* which you could either split or crush depending on your spiciness threshold soaked in a slightly sweetened vinegar base and with a bit of *wansoy* (cilantro).

I love vinegar, *sinak* from the Visayas is a favorite, but this tomato, vinegar and *sili* dipping sauce is by far the best I've ever had.

Rina insisted I try the *tapa* she ordered. The beef was thinly sliced, with just the right amount of crispness and a slight sweetness that also went well dipped in the vinegar. Our late dinner portions were just right, filling enough to share all around.

For dessert, we gave in to our sweets' craving and had leche flan and fruit salad with tapioca. I must commend Café Bola.

Most of us relate "comfort food" to what's served in our grandparents' home. They managed to make restaurant desserts taste just as homey, delicious, and seemingly lovingly prepared as what we'd have during family reunions!

Mayor **Sonny Belmonte** was bragging to me during a ribbon cutting recently that Quezon City now has Tomato Morato and Timog, Libis and Eastwood City, and soon Araneta Center for varied eating and partying venues.

He's right, progress around Araneta Coliseum is brisk. The place is very well lit, secured and conveniently located.

Those of us who live and work here need not venture to Makati or Malate anymore!

Willis upstaged by relative newcomer

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

"HART'S WAR" is supposed to topbill **Bruce Willis**, but it turns out that its real protagonist is the character played by the relatively unknown actor, **Colin Farrell**.

He's cast as a lieutenant in the Second World War who becomes a prisoner of war of the Germans, and is sent to a concentration camp where the ranking US officer among the POWs is portrayed by Willis.

Even after Willis' character makes his belated appearance, the film's storm center is still the lieutenant. It is he who tries to help two black American flyers who are discriminated against by most everybody else.

And, when one of the two black officers is framed and killed, *and* a sergeant is found dead, presumably murdered by the other flyer, it is the lieutenant who is tapped to defend the black officer accused of the crime.

Initially, Willis' character comes off as rather negative and biased against the accused black officer and his defense attorney. But, toward film's end, some details are revealed that help balance the picture.

Despite an ending that definitely makes the ranking officer played by Willis come off smelling like roses, it's still the lieutenant who chalks up the biggest thespic highlights.

This makes us wonder if "Hart's War" is one of those "R&R" movies that superstars like Willis agree to make for a lower fee, provided that their shooting schedules are abridged.

This is reminiscent of last year's film, "The Mexican," in which **Brad Pitt** and **Julia Roberts** played a romantic couple separated for much of the movie, so each superstar actually had only half a film to shoot. Sadly, moviegoers, saw through the stars' lazy ruse, and the movie wasn't a hit.

Will the same thing happen to "Hart's War?" That's up to the viewers, but we further note that, aside from Willis' reduced on-screen exposure, the movie has other weak elements that could affect its box-office appeal and take.

The most leaden aspect is the entire trial held in the POW camp. The court martial scenes are slow, low and dialogue-oriented, so the movie feels heavy, hortatory and too talky during this rather long section.

On point of performance, the experienced Willis has his moments, but it is Farrell and the actors who play the black flyers who turn in the most compelling performances. Willis should treat his career less cavalierly, for fear of being upstaged by newer actors like Farrell and company.

'Nat Geo Max'

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel's new compilation show, "NAT Geo Max" (M-F, 9 to 10 p.m.) offers these treats this month:

Monday, April 22, "Korubo: First Contact." For centuries, the Korubo Indians have lived in peaceful seclusion, hidden deep in the Amazon rain forest. In 1996, however, **Sydney Boswello** attempted to contact the Korubo to save them from the encroaching outside world.

Tuesday, April 23, "Toothed Titans." On the magnificent walrus and the other creatures, like polar bears and whales, that it encounters in the arctic.

Wednesday, April 24, "King Gimp." This Academy Award-winning film focuses on an artist whose courage and determination have helped with triumph over cerebral palsy.

Thursday, April 25, "Beyond Limits: Artists of the Extreme." Dive to depths of 150 meters with Umberto and climb 200 meters up with Alain, daredevils of the deep extraordinaire.

Moro-American war on 'I-Witness' tonight

IN EARLY 2002, US troops flew into Mindanao in large cargo planes. In 1902, they rode big horses to battle against Maranao warriors.

The US Army has gone to war in Mindanao before. Yet, the battles and brutality of that conflict are so little known today, the war is a virtual secret.

In the year of the centennial of the Moro-American war, "I-Witness" host Howie Severino takes viewers from the present military exercises in Basilan back to the past in the Lanao region, where the first and some of the fiercest battles of the war took place.

Severino finds a living survivor of the Battle of Bayang of 1902, now 112 years old, who can still recall vivid details of the days Americans aimed their cannons at Moro forts.

Finding deep trenches amid tall grass, Severino and "I-Witness" cameraman Melchor Quintos shoot the first video of "Padang Karbala," a legendary Maranao fort where hundreds of native warriors fought to their deaths against overpowering US forces.

Some historians say the US military occupation a century ago changed the course of Mindanao and set the stage for today's Moro rebellions.

Against a backdrop of past Maranao glory, Severino also reports on the miseries of Lanao's present—the poverty and neglect, especially the numerous *rido* or clan feuds that tear apart Moro communities.

Uncover our history's secrets with "I-Witness: The Moro-American War," 11 tonight after "Frontpage" on GMA 7.

Hard Rock jam for Earth Day

SHOWS

DIMITRI Productions presents "Earth Day Jam at the Hard Rock Café," a musical pop event staged with support from PLDT and Vortex by Caltex, 8 tonight.

Top artists Martin Nievera, Jaya, Lou Bonnevie and Richard Merck will jam with leading bands Parliament Syndicate, Pido With Take One, Barbie's Cradle, Pinikpikan, Eddie K and the Philippine Opera Company in an exciting and inspiring evening of songs and music for Mother Earth.

TV host Chiqui Roa-Puno and concert producer Lou Bonnevie will do the segment hosting with celebrity friends who will attend the event.

The concert is also supported by Bank of the Philippine Islands, Polaroid, Asia Brewery, 93.9 KC-FM, K-Lite FM and Earth Day Network Philippines.

Hard Rock Café's regular entrance fee applies for the night. For more information, call Dimitri Productions at 897-6991 or Hard Rock Café at 893-4661

BONNEVIE

'Crossover Presents'

105.1 Crossover's monthly concert series "Crossover Presents" brings the unparalleled music of Basil Valdez and Ryan Cayabyab.

It will be another evening of soothing choice Crossover classics, OPM hits and revivals when the two artists go onstage on May 2, Thursday, at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

Also performing is comedian Jon Santos, plus seasoned musicians Mel Villena on saxophone, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Roy Mercado on drums and musical director Gerard Salonga on keyboards.

The relaxing music of Da Capo sets the mood at 8 p.m., while vocal group The Opera composed of Cecille, Manolo, Sushi and Zebedee will open the show with favorite selections of Crossover hits from Spyro Gyra, Patti Austin, Incognito and more.

For ticket inquiries, call Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at 750-8888.

Alegria Lounge

DALE Adriatico makes a rare appearance on the concert stage as he performs at Casino Filipino Alegria Lounge on May 2, 9 p.m.

Dale has appeared in countless performances, including major concerts in the Philippines, Singapore, Australia (including the Sydney Opera House), Hong Kong, England (including Royal command performances), Canada and the United States.

He has also performed in big hotels in Las Vegas like Bally's, Golden Nugget, Desert Inn, Tropicana and Caesar's Palace.

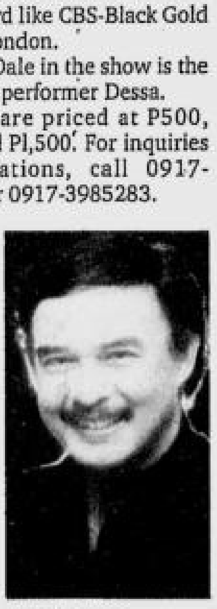
He has recorded under international record like CBS-Black Gold and EMI-London.

Joining Dale in the show is the diminutive performer Dessa.

Tickets are priced at P500, P1,000 and P1,500. For inquiries or reservations, call 0917-7910385 or 0917-3985283.

NIEVERA

VALDEZ



ADRIATICO

Villar bill aims to uplift local film industry

SENATE president pro-tempore **Manny Villar** recently proposed a bill to help uplift the local entertainment industry and elevate local cinema to world-class standards.

Through Senate Bill 2049, Villar proposes for the creation of a Film Development Council that will provide incentives to film producers. The bill also seeks to abolish the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines and the Film Ratings Board.

The council will be composed of a 30-man board, with 20 members coming from the industry (directors, producers, actors), while the remaining 10 will come from the academe and other sectors.

The council, says Villar, will establish and implement a cinema evaluation system that will provide incentives to film producers so they can come up with quality films that are competitive in the domestic and foreign markets.

"The local film industry is dying like what is happening to a lot of Filipino industries," Villar notes. "We have to understand why. It used to be a very strong industry. Foreign films are killing the industry. We can no longer compete. But we can do something. We can make our film industry like that of India's which is very strong."

The 30-man board of the council, according to Villar, will be responsible for classifying films and giving incentives to local producers.

Films which will be classified "A" will get a 100-percent tax refund. Grade "B" films will entitle producers to a 65-percent return of the amusement tax.

"The high amusement taxes leave producers with just a little share of the profit," Villar says. "That has also encouraged the proliferation of low-quality, quick-profit sex and violence films. This bill is just the beginning. We will not stop here."

Villar intends to further pursue measures to bring down the cost of producing films by allowing tax breaks in the importation of equipment used by the industry.

"That way, more companies can produce quality films and the movies can be competitive with that of foreign releases," he maintains. "It's a pity if we can't utilize the creativity of Filipinos.

"Encouraging the production of quality films will bring out the best in Filipino artists. All over the world, our people are known to be very talented. With the talent of our local artists, I have no doubt we can come out with world-class films that can draw international audiences."

Villar also supports measures to provide tax exemptions on the importation of equipment used in filmmaking to allow the companies to bring down the cost of their products.

"This will give Filipinos more access to such materials and at the same time help fight piracy," he says. "The industry should really be assisted because it is an important industry."

SENATE president pro-tempore Manny Villar (left) gets support from actor Cesar Montano in elevating local cinema to world-class standards.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Public service work

AFTER a failed political bid when she ran for governor in her native Camarines Sur last year, **Nora Aunor** insists her political stint is over. Even if there are others wooing her to run again in 2004, Nora, this early, no longer wants to entertain the offers.

AUNOR. No more political plans.

"That has been traumatic for me," Nora says of her previous candidacy. "I've learned a lot of lessons, but I have no regrets. Politics is three times dirtier than show biz. It is even more dangerous because you can be killed."

However, her failed political bid has not hindered Nora from helping people and continuing her public service cause. This is the reason she accepted the offer of IBC 13 to host a public service program, "Nora Mismo," which will start airing next month.

"Even if you're not in politics, you can still help other people," Nora explains. "With this program, we hope to be able to offer solutions to the problems of the people. We hope to act as a bridge between the government and the public."

The public service program was offered to Nora even before she started her political campaign last year. But she became busy so she had to forego the offer. She points out, however, that she accepted the program today not because she is preparing for another political salvo.

"I don't have any more political plans," she says. "For me, politics is over."

"Nora Mismo" marks the singer-actress' return to TV after her long-running musical-variety show, "Superstar," went off the air on RPN 9 in the late '80s. It was revived in the mid-'90s but did not run long enough.

"Nora Mismo" is loaded with different segments that aim to extend assistance and keep hope alive for the less privileged, encourage public and private sector cooperation to lighten the burden of the masses and keep the government closer to the people by facilitating easier public access to social services.

Nora's cohost is Naga City broadcast journalist **Junne Abejuela**.

"Babae" focuses on women's issues. "Kaya Kong Magtrabaho" requests assistance for disabled individuals to work. "Bawal Pong Maglimos" gives a little push to the beggars and homeless to work. "Pag-usapan Natin" clears the air on a specific problem with government agency.

"Wow Inspirasyon" features success stories of various government and private entity programs. "Problema Ba Yan" highlights positive community aspects. "Isa ang Ating Planeta" is about the protection of environment.

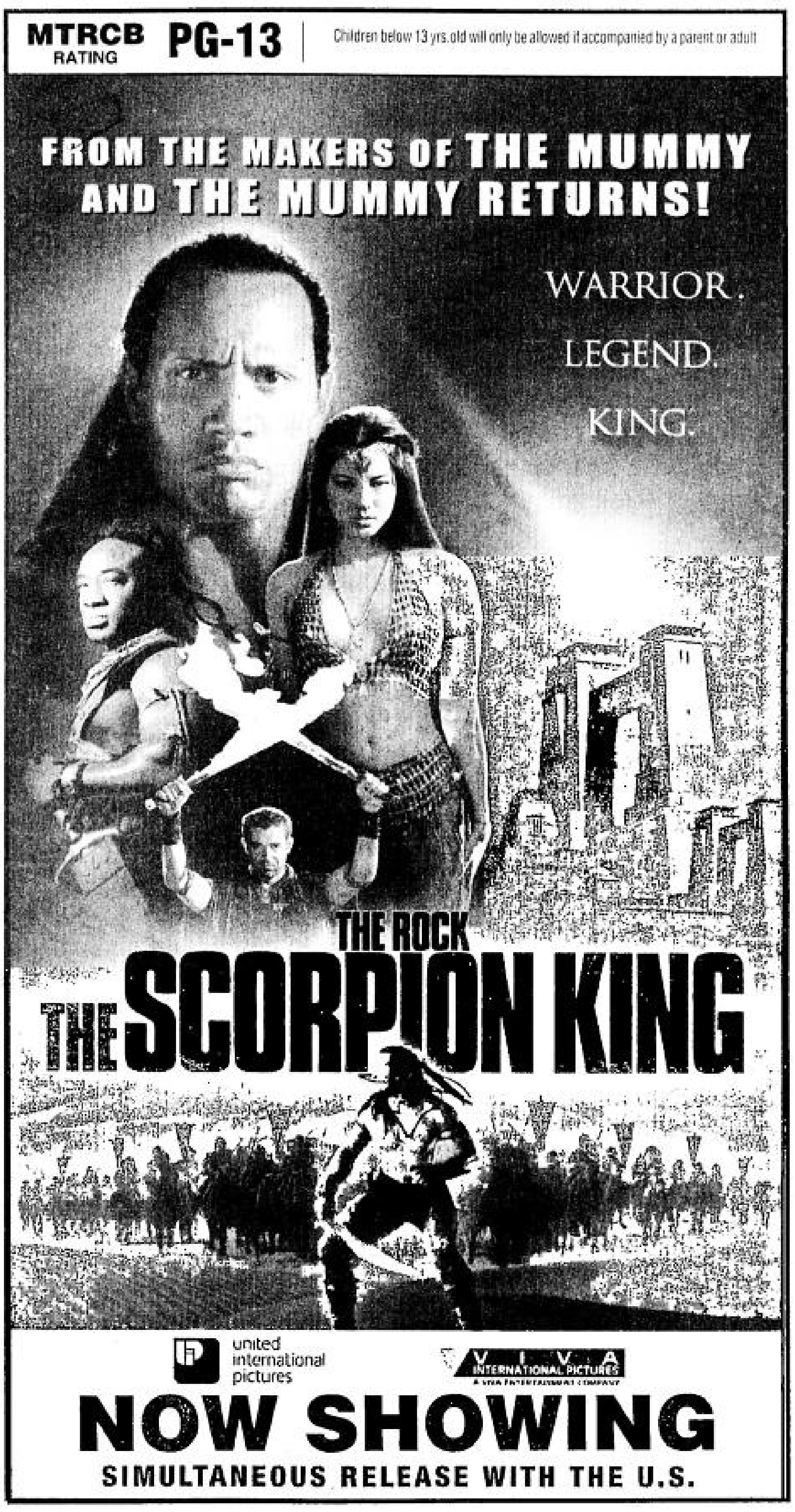
"Bata, Bata" focuses on children and youth issues. "Problema Mo, Lunas Mo" tries to answer a letter of complaint from a viewer.

Soundtrack

THE SOUNDTRACK of "S2pid Luv," the comedy starrer of **Andrew E.** and **Blakdyak,** was released recently in time for the showing of the movie of the same title.

The two stars of the movie join today's hottest new rap group, Salbakuta, who recorded the theme "S2pid Luv." The tune has become a popular rap anthem and has taken the country by storm.

Interestingly, the album is made up of love songs, but interpreted in rap style. "S2pid Luv" comes into two versions. One is the original recording by Salbakuta. The trio is composed of Andrew E discoveries—**Rommel "Ben Deatha" Tejada** who started out as Andrew's production assistant, **Edwin "Madkillah" Encarnacion** and **Charlito "Charlie Mac" Dellosa**, with **Normandy "Nasty Mac" Adriano** of Block Pro as special guest.


MTRCB RATING PG-13
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SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	RIPPER
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4	SNOW DOGS
5	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV
7	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
8	TIME MACHINE

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1	S2PID LUV
2	ICE AGE
3	SCORPION KING
4	DEEP END
5	SCORPION KING
6	MASARAP ANG BAWAL
7	SHOWTIME
8	BLADE 2
9	SNOW DOGS
10	MONTE CRISTO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	E.T.
2	MONTE CRISTO
3	SHOWTIME
4	SCORPION KING
5	SNOW DOGS
6	S2PID LUV
7	SCORPION KING
8	BLADE 2
9	MIMIC 2
10	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
11	TIME MACHINE
12	ICE AGE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SNOW DOGS
2	ICE AGE
3	DEEP END
4	SCORPION KING
5	SHOWTIME
6	SCORPION KING
7	E.T.
8	MIMIC-2
9	S2PID LUV
10	RIPPER
11	BLADE 2
12	MONTE CRISTO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	SCORPION KING
2	TIME MACHINE
3	SCORPION KING
4	SNOW DOGS
5	ICE AGE
6	DEEP END
7	SHOWTIME
8	RIPPER
9	S2PID LUV
10	BLADE 2
11	MONTE CRISTO
12	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	BLADE 2
2	MONTE CRISTO
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
4	S2PID LUV
5	DEEP END
6	SNOW DOGS
7	SCORPION KING
8	SHOWTIME
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8060888

1	ICE AGE
2	DEEP END
3	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME
5	E.T.
6	SNOW DOGS
7	S2PID LUV
8	SCORPION KING
9	BLADE-2
10	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	SCORPION KING
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
4	MAJESTIC
5	BANDITS
6	MONTE CRISTO
7	S2PID LUV
8	SCORPION KING

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MAJESTIC
2	CLOSED
3	BANDITS
4	S2PID LUV
5	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6	SCORPION KING
7	CLOSED
8	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLADE 2
2	SCORPION KING
3	SCORPION KING
4	HARTS WAR
5	BLOW DRY
6	S2PID LUV

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	RIPPER
2	SCORPION KING
3	MIMIC 2
4	S2PID LUV

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	S2PID LUV
4	SNOW DOGS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	BANDITS
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	SCORPION KING
6	WE WERE SOLDIERS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

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1 SCORPION KING	1 SHOWTIME	4 BEFORE THE NIGHT FALLS	1 MONTE CRISTO	1 SCORPION KING (THX)
2 S2PID LUV	2 SCORPION KING	5 DEEP END	2 SCORPION KING	2 SCORPION KING
3 SCORPION KING	3 SCORPION KING (THX) 11:30/1:35/3:40/5:45/7:50/9:55/12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 SCORPION KING	3 SHOWTIME	3 SCORPION KING
4 SHOWTIME		7 SNOW DOGS	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 DEEP END
				5 SNOW DOGS

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	DEEP END
2 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHOWTIME
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SNOW DOG
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
8	S2PID LUV
9	MONTE CRISTO
10	E.T.

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	HOT DOG
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	HARTS WAR
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	RIPPER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SNOW DOGS
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	PAROLA
2	IKA PITONG GLORIA
3	S2PID LUV
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	DEEP END
6	SCORPION KING
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	SCORPION KING

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	ICE AGE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	BUBOT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HOT DOG THE MOVIE
A	SNAKE CHARMER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	ITLOG
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	S2PID LUV
6	DEEP END
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8 (SDDS)	SNOW DOGS
9 (DOLBY)	RIPPER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	S2PID LUV
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
5	SNOW DOG
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8	PAROLA
9	SHOWTIME

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DOLBY)	SNOW DOGS
8	BLADE 2

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	SNOW DOG
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SCORPION KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SCORPION KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	PAROLA
Lords	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
Jennet	

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	RESERVE
4	S2PID LUV
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	S2PID LUV
2	BANDITS
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	BANDITS
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4	EVIL WOMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	SCORPION KING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	S2PID LUV
2	MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	BANDITS
4 (DTS)	E.T.

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	S2PID 2
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	SNAKE CHARMER
4 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SNAKE CHARMER
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	BLADE2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	BLOW DRY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	BLOW DRY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TIME MACHINE
2	E.T.
3	ITLOG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
2 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	TIME MACHINE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	EVIL WOMAN
2	MAJESTIC
3	BLADE 2
4	MIMIC 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	HART'S WAR

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Galleria
632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	SCORPION KING
4	DEEP END
5	SNOW DOGS
6	MONTE CRISTO
7	ICE AGE
8	SHOW TIME
9	RIPPER
10	BLADE 2

Ermita
536-7809-12

1	SCORPION KING
2	RIPPER
3	SHOWTIME
4	DEEP END
5	S2PID LUV
6	SNOW DOGS
7	SCORPION KING

Metro East - Marcos hway
682-8193 / 8280

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME
4	SNOW DOGS
5	ICE AGE
6	S2PID LUV
7	BLADE 2
8	RIPPER

Novaliches
935-3279-30

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME
4	RIPPER
5	E.T.
6	BLADE 2
7	ICE AGE
8	S2PID LUV

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV
4	SNOW DOGS
5	RIPPER
6	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

1	SCORPION KING
2	BANDITS
3	MAJESTIC
4	MONTE CRISTO
5	ROYAL TENEBAUMS
6	ALI

Iloilo
336-8077-78

1	SCORPION KING
2	BANDITS
3	MAJESTIC
4	QUEEN OF THE DUMNED
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	E.T.

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp
875-1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV
4	HARTS WAR
5	EVIL WOMAN
6	EVIL WOMAN

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
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Lani leads amazing April for Primeline artists

GUEVARRA

SONG Goddess Lani Misalucha, who welcomes the summer with her first-ever concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt, leads the parade of Primeline artists this hot and amazing month of April.

"Lani Onstage: A Crossover Special" continues with performances on April 26 and 27, with special guests Radha and Jed Maddela. The series is directed by Rowell Santiago, with Louie Ocampo as musical director and Noel Ferrer as scriptwriter.

Young diva Karylle just finished recording and shooting the music video of "Kung Mawawala Ka" for the new GMA 7 series of the same title that stars Hilda Koronel, Sunshine Dizon, Ara Mina, Cogie Domingo, Jay Manalo and multi-awarded actor-director Eddie Garcia.

Jed Maddela, aside from guesting in Lani's concert series, is busy with TV guestings and stints with the new Prime Council band. He is one of the band's vocalists with Radha and Gail Blanco.

Tootsie Guevarra has launched her second single, "Sa Puso Ko," from her latest album under Star Records. She will be busy with a series of mall tours this month and in May. She will perform at SM Iloilo on April 28 and SM Davao on May 4.

Model-actress Nancy Castiglione is a mainstay of the GMA 7 soap series, "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" and is also in the Thursday edition of ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

Also busy this April is the morning radio team of Chico (Garcia) and Delamar (Arias) on "Morning Rush" over KC-FM, singer Jeremie Antiporda and singer, actress and model Aliya Parcs.

Radha, who is busy preparing for her solo album under MCA-Universal, joins Jed Maddela and Gail Blanco in Prime Council Band, which performs every Wednesday night at Ratsky's Morato.

Primeline artists are managed by the husband and wife team of Ronnie and Ida Henares. For bookings and inquiries, call 897-6170 or 897-6172.

Side A, Freestyle at Island Cove

SUMMER sizzles at Island Cove as the country's two hottest bands, Side A and Freestyle, perform in a "2-in-1" major concert on May 4, Saturday, at the Concert Park of Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

The show is presented with Smart and Sunsilk Crystal.

Major sponsors are Lipton Ice Tea, Nestle Ice Cream. Yehey.com, Nescafé Frothé and Nestlé Calcium Plus.

Media partners include Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Chat Magazine, Mellow Touch 94.7, Joey@92.3, WRock 96.3, Wave 89.1 and Yes FM.

Tickets at P300 are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and at Island Cove.

For inquiries, 810-3718, 810-3732, 810-5351 or (046) 434-0210.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEEP END
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	RIPPER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	INOG SA PILIT/TEEN HOUSED
ODEON	SCORPION KING
ODEON-2	ITLOG
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	HOT DOG
TIMES	THE OTHERS/TIGERS CLAWS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	SCORPION KING
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	S2PID LUV
B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-2	3RD GERMAN FILM WEEK
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOTDOG
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	E.T.
CINEMA-8	BLADE 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-14	RIPPER
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-4	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-5	DEEP END
CINEMA-6	SCORPION KING
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MONTE CRISTO-P13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40,7:20,10:00	SCORPION KING- P 13 11:00, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20	SNOW DOGS - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30
SHOWTIME - P 13 1:20, 3:30,5:40, 7:50, 10:00	DEEP END - R18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	SCORPION KING-P13 12:00, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8;15, 10:20

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CINEMA 1
SCORPION KING
10:30 / 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30 / 10:30
P13

CINEMA 2
SCORPION KING
11:00, 10:00, 3:00,
5:00, 7:00, 9;00, 11:00
P13

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THAT'S WHAT SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT / ALABANG TOWN CENTER / AYALA CENTER CEBU

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WARRIOR. LEGEND. KING.
THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Special
PHILIPS
Pizza Hut
UIP united international pictures

FROM THE MAKERS OF THE MUMMY AND THE MUMMY RETURNS!
WARRIOR. LEGEND. KING.
THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING
The Scorpion King original soundtrack is now out on CDs and casettes. Featuring the hit single "I Stand Alone" By Godsmack
NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS
MCA UNIVERSAL
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@
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA
Javier Bardem
Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn

"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer

"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performance."
-Guy Flatley, Interview

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults

WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.

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MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
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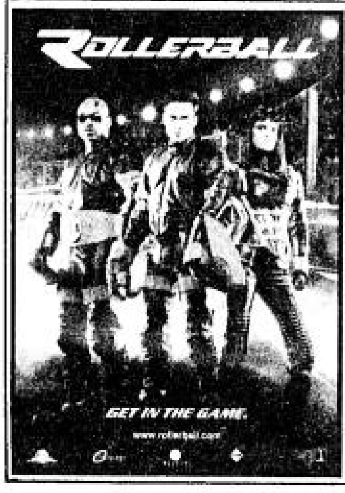

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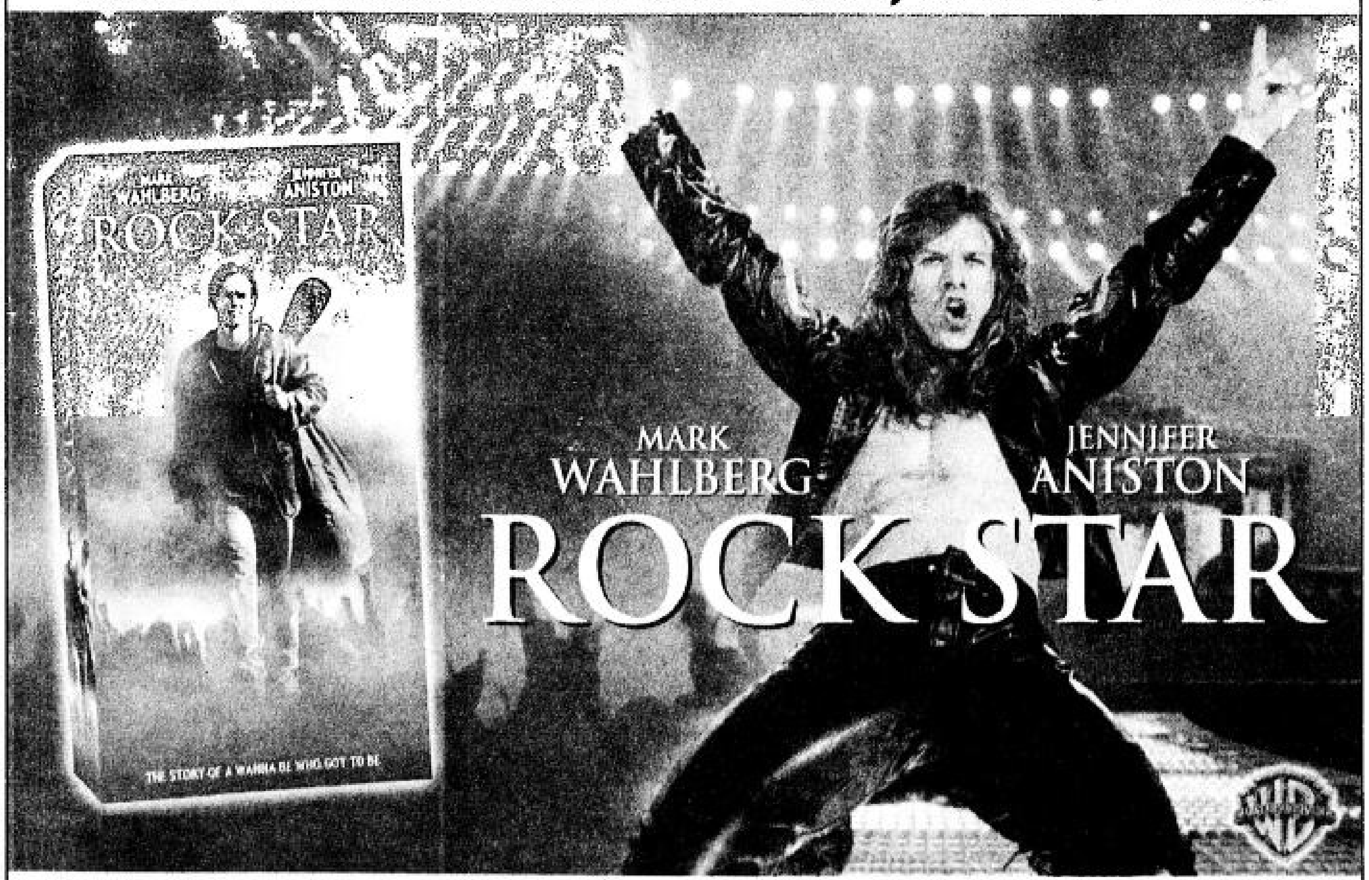

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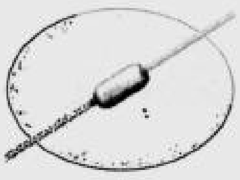
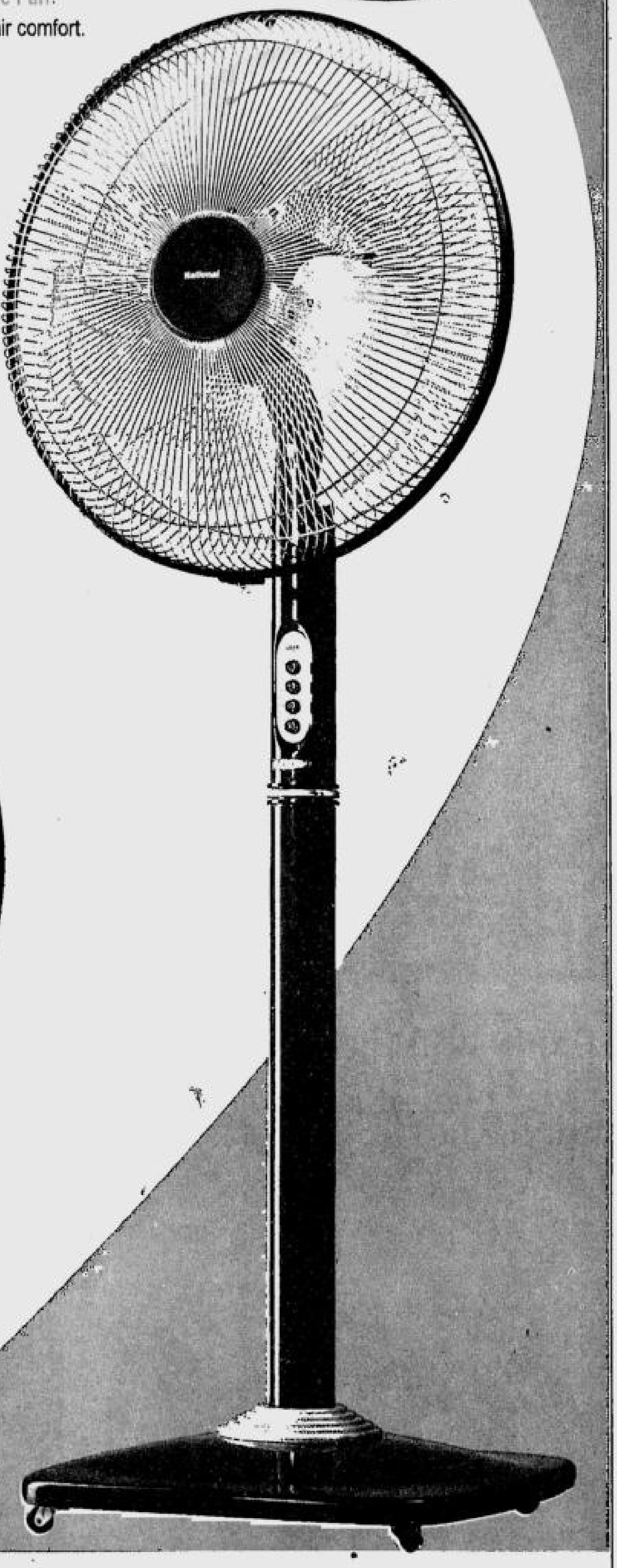
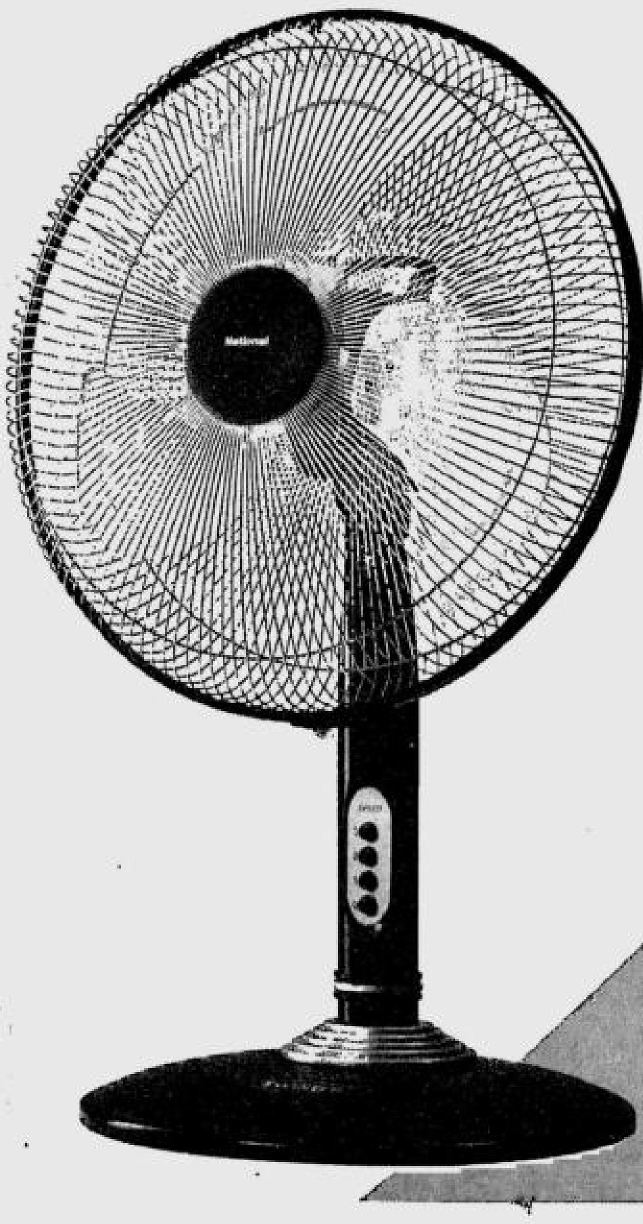


THERMAL FUSE

HEAT INSULATOR





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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Ayala junks $300-M railway project

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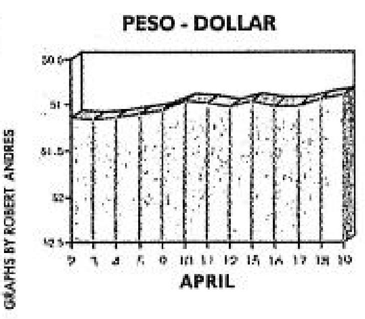


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.890 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 19, 2002

¥ 130.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 19, 2002

GOLD: $303.20/303.70

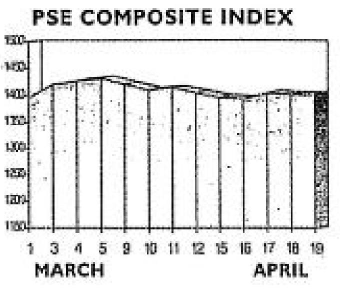
per ounce Hong Kong,
April 19, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Bargain-hunting seen lifting stocks

LOCAL stocks might benefit from selective bargain-hunting this week but trading is likely to be restricted to narrow levels with the recently realigned MSCI Emerging Markets Asia Index still in the mind of investors, brokers said.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index (Phisix) ended 3.98 points or 0.28 percent lower at 1,401.36.



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Morgan Stanley Capital International (MCSI), an organization which formulates benchmark indices closely monitored by global institutional investors, recently realigned its Philippine basket to favor Ayala-controlled companies.

Bank of the Philippine Islands was added to the basket for the first time and got the highest weighting of 16.9 percent while the respective weightings of Ayala Corp. and Ayala Land Inc. were jacked up to 8.3 percent and 11.9 percent from 2.4 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively.

The Ayala group now accounts for 37 percent of the new basket as against the previous 12 percent weighting.

On the other hand, other blue chips like SM Prime Holdings Inc., San Miguel Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. were given a lower weighting. SM Prime's weighting was down to 10 percent from 14 percent; SMC, 12 percent from 16 percent; PLDT, 11 percent from 22 percent; Metrobank, 10 percent from 15 percent.

Among the week's top gainers was thus BPI while those who received lower MCSI weightings like PLDT dragged the market down.

Traders said the Phisix would likely trade within the 1,385 to 1,420 range.

BARGAIN/ B4

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. has shelved a $300-million Southern Luzon railway project that was to link Manila to the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon (Calabarzon) region, noting that the build-operate-transfer project was no longer viable without any government subsidy.

"The economics has changed" since the Southern Luzon railway project was planned by the company prior to the Asian financial crisis of 1997, with the dollar exchange rate surging to more than P50 from only P26, ALI president Francisco Licuanan III said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

The Manila-Calabarzon Express (MCX) was awarded by the government to ALI after the latter submitted an unsolicited proposal. The National Economic and Development Authority, however, was recently notified that ALI was no longer keen on pushing through with the project unless the government would agree to provide some subsidy.

The MCX project aims to improve the existing commuter lines of the Philippine National Railways in Metro Manila and extend it to the Calabarzon region. It involves the construction of a five-phase railway line, which will include the installation of signaling and communication systems, introduction of new locomotives, and passenger coaches.

For its part, ALI was previously keen on the project because it would benefit its property development projects south of Metro Manila. The property downturn linked to the Asian crisis, however, has tempered its expansion binge in the region.

"We won't oppose it if the government would want to offer the project to other groups, assuming it could find somebody interested," Licuanan said.

"It doesn't make sense from an economic point of view unless the government is willing to subsidize partly or maybe find a creative way to allow private participants like us to make money out of it," ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael explained in a separate interview.

He said the subsidy could come in the form of either partly financing development cost or subsidizing transport fares.

AYALA/ B2

RP to tighten imports of Aussie dairy items

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE government is expected to tighten the importation of Australian milk and dairy products into the country in retaliation for Australia's continued blockade of Philippine fruit exports with stringent phyto-sanitary standards.

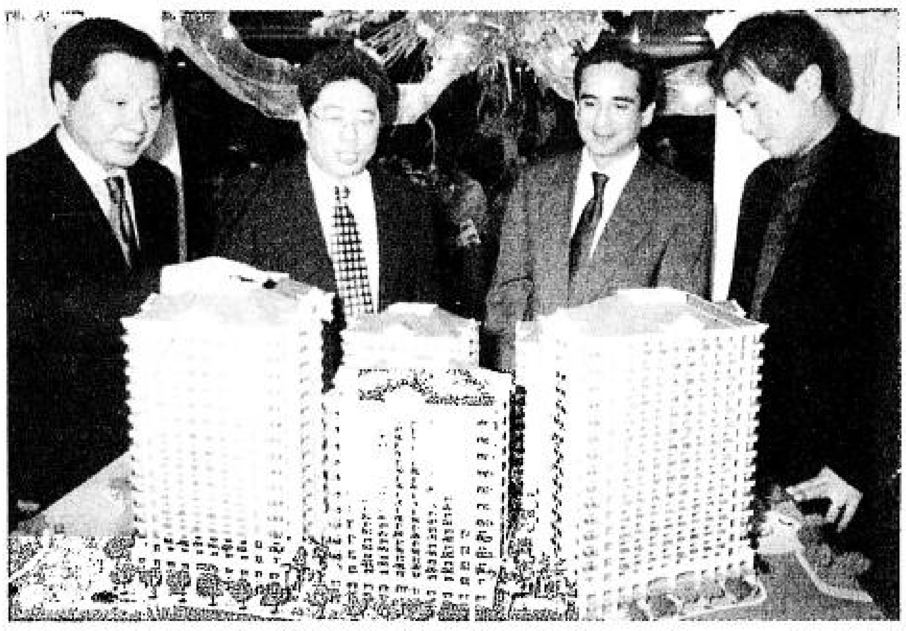
A top-level government official, who declined to be identified, revealed that Malacañang was prepared to go tit-for-tat with the Australian government if the latter does not lift its unfair import restrictions on Philippine fruits before the end of this year.

The Department of Agriculture said Philippine mangoes have been under study for the last 12 years while the import risk analysis on bananas and pineapples has been pending since 2000.

Aside from this, the Philippines' continued membership in the Cairns group, an international lobby group of agriculture-exporting countries led by Australia, was hinged on a favorable outcome of the review on Philippine fruits.

Malacañang is obviously fed up with Australia's patent hypocrisy in trade matters specially when it criticizes the United States and Europe for adopting unjust phyto-sanitary

RP/ B4



FORBESWOOD HEIGHTS IN BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY ROGER CARPIO

Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew L. Tan, Bonifacio West Development Corp. president Charlie Rufino and vice chair Jacques Dupasquier, and Megaworld senior vice president Kingson Sian view the scale model of the Forbeswood Heights Luxury Garden Residences at the Megaworld Showroom at The World Center in Makati City. Premier urban property developer Megaworld and BWDC, a consortium led by the Rufino-Dupasquier group, launched the first of a series of residential condominium projects in Bonifacio Global City. Forbeswood Heights, consisting of six multistory towers, is part of the P15-billion Forbes Town Center, a mixed-use, 5-hectare development located in the West Crescent Park district at the former military facility in Taguig.

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MPC offers property swap for ₱1.5-B SSS loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO Pacific Corp. has offered to swap a prime lot in the Fort Bonifacio Global City as payment for its P1.5-billion debt to the Social Security System.

But the state-owned pension fund is not keen on the debt-for-asset swap after suffering losses from its previous investments.

"We really need cash because a piece of property will not provide us with income to pay our pensioners and it may even require an investment in the future that we may not be able to provide," said an SSS official.

Metro Pacific has reportedly offered the SSS a pick from three lots in the Big Delta area of the Bonifacio Global City as payment for its debts.

Its P1.5-billion obligation to the SSS stemmed from a guarantee it gave to a long-term commercial paper issued in 1995 by a subsidiary, Bonifacio Land Corp.

A year after the Bonifacio firm issued the debt papers, the obligations were absorbed by Metro Pacific which, in turn, asked the SSS for assistance.

Bonifacio Land owns 55 percent of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the company that manages the development of the Global City. State-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority owns the remaining 45 percent in FBDC.

Metro Pacific has started talks with some of its creditors to restructure more than P8 billion in debts that had been affecting its profitability.

The company owned by Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. won the bidding in 1995 to develop more than 200 hectares of property at the former military bases in Taguig.

Dubbed as the property deal of the last century, Metro Pacific's bid for the government property reached almost P40 billion.

But the Asian crisis had made the property sector very vulnerable as costly projects were financed through loans that were mostly dollar-denominated.

The depreciation of the peso bloated the debts of most property companies that could not sell the assets they developed because of the economic crisis.

Worse, the cash-strapped property firms were not willing to bring down their prices even up to now because they wanted to recover the amount they needed to pay the loans and make a profit at the same time.

Problems of a similar nature had also weighed down the prospects of Metro Pacific.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 22, 2002

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	780,909,663
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,175,086,121
Due from Other Banks		1,468,543,805
Interbank Loans Receivable		15,287,860,991
Trading Account Securities (Net)		1,382,068,810
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		9,514,498,890
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		12,989,787,482
Equity Investments (Net)		355,835,512
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,446,837,973
Other Assets (Net)		8,449,356,285
Property Owned/Acquired		5,514,791,486
Others		2,934,564,799
TOTAL ASSETS	P	53,850,785,532

LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	8,324,598,041
Savings Deposits		13,728,858,217
Time Deposits		10,121,642,577
Special/Other Deposits		10,144,203
Due to Bangko Sentral		20,666,329
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		824,331,019
Bills Payable:		2,984,709,339
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		1,581,956,854
Others		1,383,706,817
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		761,245,773
Other Liabilities		3,917,185,670
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	40,693,381,168

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,018,568,671
Surplus Reserves		51,777,770
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,157,404,364
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	53,850,785,532

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	120,860,613
Bills for Collection		99,630,575
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,534,877,139
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,590,757,270
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,130,019,485
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,705,828,577
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		227,836,895
Loans & Discounts		13,694,374
Other Assets		3,182,659,639
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,535,491,907
Common Trust Funds		732,951,254
Investment/Fund Management		861,576,324
Other Contingent Accounts		46,041,760
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	16,522,186,842

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	385,795,196
b) Banks		180,085,071
c) Trust Department		2,284,220,109
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		270%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		600%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		3,217,996,944
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		10.55%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		7,281,546,988
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		233,935,678
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		1,955,205,051
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		8.50%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		672,685,897
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		2.21%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		462,934
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		-

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Victor B. Valdepeñas of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 16th day of April 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 11937965 issued at Makati City on February 28, 2002 and Community Tax No. 16925614 issued at Quezon City on February 11, 2002, respectively.

RAYMUND HILARION R. GENILO
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2002
PTR NO. 6749986
JAN. 17, 2002
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 492
Page No. 100
Book No. LII
Series of 2002.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of March 22, 2002

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	783,405,181
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,175,086,121
Due from Other Banks		1,468,543,805
Interbank Loans Receivable		15,287,860,991
Trading Account Securities (Net)		1,405,193,277
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		9,514,498,890
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		12,665,827,628
Equity Investments (Net)		95,975,851
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,455,777,441
Other Assets (Net)		8,981,160,451
Property Owned/Acquired		5,514,791,486
Others		3,466,368,965
TOTAL ASSETS	P	53,833,329,636

LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	8,269,440,068
Savings Deposits		13,728,858,217
Time Deposits		10,121,642,577
Special/Other Deposits		10,144,203
Due to Bangko Sentral		20,666,329
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		824,331,019
Bills Payable:		2,985,209,339
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		1,581,956,854
Others		1,384,206,817
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		761,618,961
Other Liabilities		3,954,014,559
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	40,675,925,272

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,018,568,671
Surplus Reserves		51,777,770
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,157,404,364
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	53,833,329,636
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		-

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	120,860,613
Bills for Collection		99,630,575
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,534,877,139
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,590,757,270
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,130,019,485
Invested in:		
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Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		227,836,895
Loans & Discounts		13,694,374
Other Assets		3,182,659,639
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,535,491,907
Common Trust Funds		732,951,254
Investment/Fund Management		861,576,324
Other Contingent Accounts		46,041,760
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	16,522,186,842

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	385,795,196
b) Banks		180,085,071
c) Trust Department		2,284,220,109

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
   a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation
   b) UBP Capital Corporation
   c) UBP Securities, Inc.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

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Doc. No. 493
Page No. 100
Book No. LII
Series of 2002.

www.unionbankph.com

Taiwan firm eyes power supply deal with Tipco

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FORMOSA Plastics group of Taiwan is negotiating with Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco) for a multimillion-dollar deal to supply cheap electricity to one of the Philippines biggest paper millers and sole exporter.

A source from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office said Formosa has proposed to shoulder the cost of putting up a cogeneration power plant for Tipco's factory in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Tipco, in turn, expects to generate substantial savings in its electricity bills by getting its power from Formosa.

With electricity eating up a quarter of a paper mill's production costs, savings from the Formosa deal would make Tipco more competitive in the export market. The company exports up to 70 percent of its production to Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Japan, India, Thailand and Nigeria.

The Philippines has the second highest cost of power in Asia, after Japan, and this has been the bane of power-intensive Philippines industries.

Formosa, however, has set two conditions before signing a deal with Tipco. The Meco official said Formosa wanted Tipco to finalize a loan restructuring agreement with its creditor-banks to make its debt interest payments manageable and ensure a steady cash flow to pay for its power requirements.

The source said Formosa also asked Tipco to obtain approval from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to declare the 100-hectare Mabalacat property as an economic zone. An ecozone status would make Formosa eligible for fiscal incentives such as duty-free importation of capital equipment and preferred taxes on income.

The Meco official said Formosa's investment proposal reflected the renewed interest of Taiwanese investors in the country after being turned off by the political instability, security problems, and dispute on air rights between Philippine Airlines and Taiwanese carriers.

Meco is targeting to generate up to $1 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI) from Taiwan over the next three years through more aggressive investment promotion program.

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Ayala . . .

From page B1

"We're not doing it for charity. It has to make reasonable money as well," Ysmael stressed.

Both officials also noted that ALI would like to henceforth focus on its core property business, unlock the value of underutilized assets and in general, veer away from those where it did not have much expertise, like infrastructure development. For instance, ALI has put on the auction block its 15.8-percent stake in Manila Rail Transit Corp.

Ysmael noted that the MCX project was no longer viable unless ALI would charge an exorbitant fare, which he said would not be possible due to its social consequences.

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Road Map to Risk Management. Identifying and Quantifying Risk Exposures. Measuring and Monitoring Credit/Liquidity Risks. Identifying and Quantifying Operational Risks. Analysis and Operationalization of Risk Management Function
May 21-23, 2002 (8:30am-5:00pm) Fee:P15,000.00

USE OF DERIVATIVES
Corporate Finance Derivatives: Options and Warrants, Convertible Preferred/Debt and Securitization. Treasury Derivatives: Interest Rate Swaps, Currency Forwards
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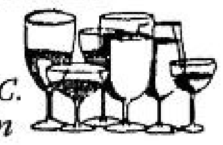
For more information, please call Ms. Orig Jover at 636-7637 / Mary Grace Borja at 633-7902 / Flor Cruz at 634-2822, or email ojover@uap.edu.ph

Erap's onion scheme



COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

NUEVA Ecija provided the muscle during the pro-Erap rallies in the days leading to Edsa II, mainly because of the steadfast friendship between the Josons and their goonish friend then in Malacañang.

What many Novo Ecijanos did not know was that their movie idol himself was undermining their vital onion industry.

The influx of cheap imported onions that is now threatening to wipe out the local industry may be attributed to an executive order signed by President Estrada that reduced the tariff on "treated" foreign onions down to only 7 percent from an original 65 percent, said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

What was strange with the Erap EO was that no public hearings were held before the reduction, catching even the career bureaucrats at the Department of Agriculture by surprise, said Assistant Agriculture Secretary Segfredo Serrano.

Even a board member of the Tariff Commission during Erap's time, now NFA Administrator Anthony Abad, seemed surprised

COCKTALES/ B6

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

STRADCOM CORPORATION
(Registrant)

REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

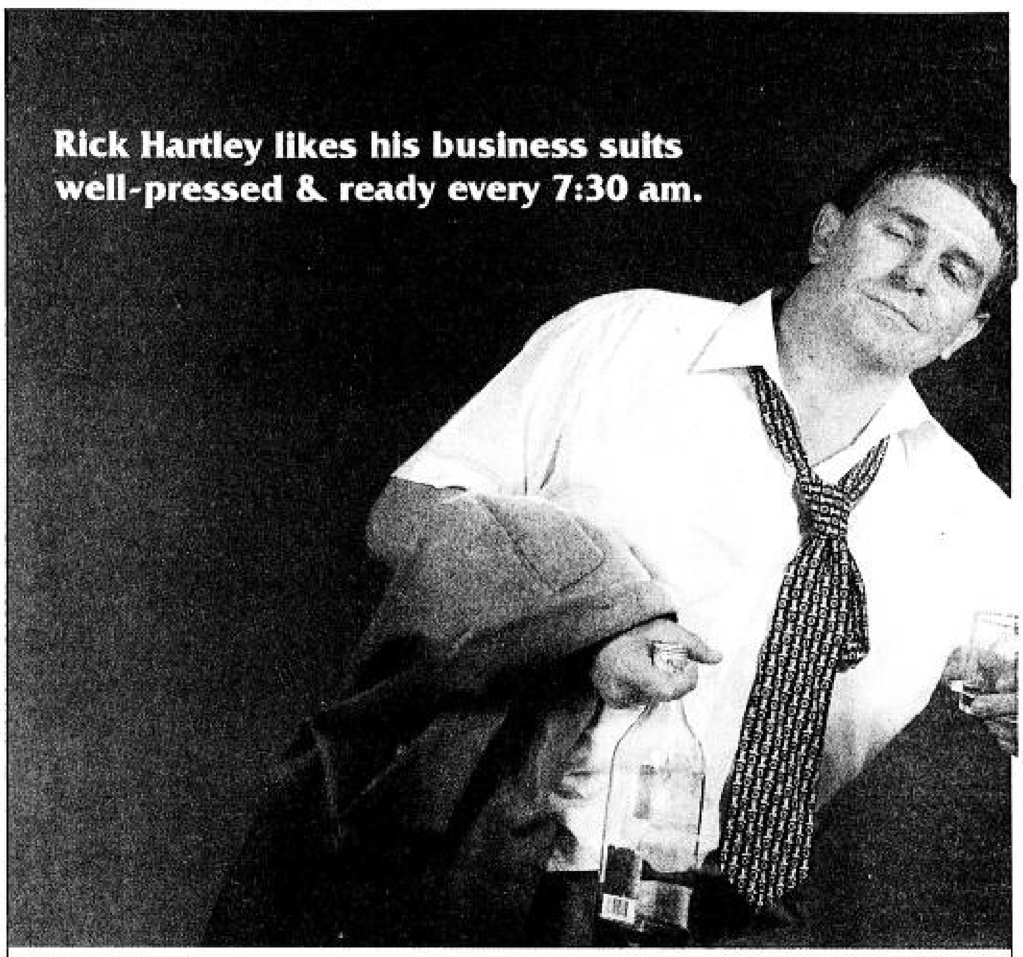
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 12 April 2002, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of STRADCOM CORPORATION for the registration of up to ₱1,200,000,000.00 worth of Secured Floating Rate Information Technology Bonds due 5 years and 1 day from date of issue, to be offered at par value.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers and directors of the corporation:

Name	Position
Cezar T. Quiambao	Chairman of the Board of Directors
Jaime B. Aquino	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors
Jose A. Chua	President and Chief Executive Officer/Director
Ramon G. Reyes	Chief Operating Officer/Director
Oscar A. Cabading	Treasurer/Director
Conrado C. Legaspi, Jr.	Director
Ramon M. Borromeo	Director
Jose M. Magno III	Director
Benjamin N. Libarnes	Director
Ray C. Espinosa	Director
Raul C. Pagdanganan	Chief Finance Officer
Jose L. Carlos	Chief Information Officer
Eric Gene C. Pilapil	Corporate Secretary/Chief Legal Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.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318i M Sport	2,300,000	805,000	**36,000**
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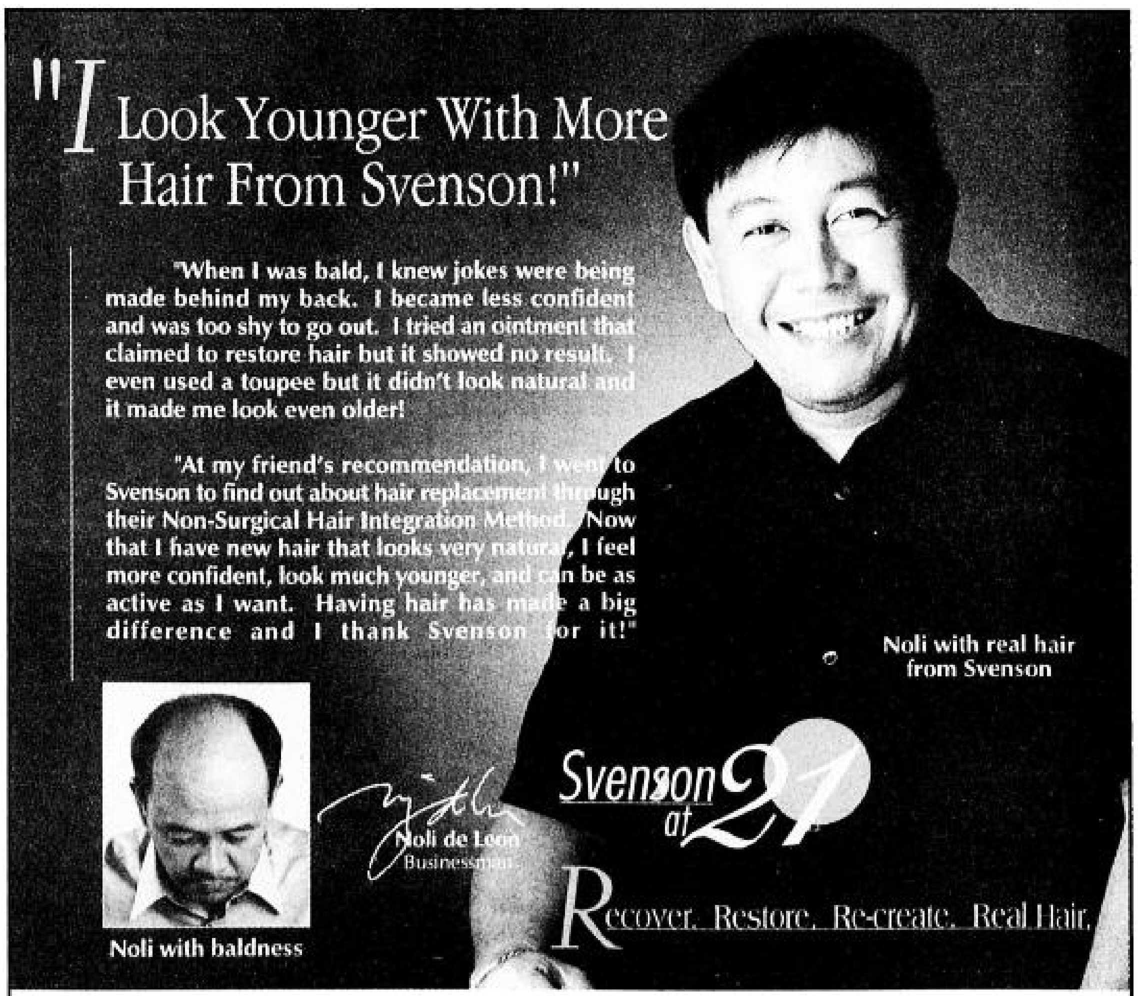
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A look at the global scene

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

LAST week, I decided to write a humorous article to cheer readers up because the index was falling 10 points a day. Today, I am back to serious mode and I would like to look at the global scene, starting as always with the United States, as it is the most important world economy and everybody's main trading partner. Whatever happens to the US reverberates across the oceans and affects the rest of the world.

When the terrorist attack on New York and Washington occurred last September, the stock market was suspended for a week, and then fell sharply for two months. All other stock exchanges followed the downtrend and the Phisix hit a 10-year low of 980.

Aggressive action by the Fed, cutting interest rates dramatically to 1.75 percent and pumping massive liquidity into the economy, managed to stem the tide, and within a surprisingly short time, prevented a recession and paved the way for recovery. As a result, the DOW and the Nasdaq bottomed out in November, and their rapid recovery was mirrored by bourses everywhere. The Phisix recovered 50 percent in 3 months and became extremely overbought.

On Wednesday night, I listened to Fed Chair Alan Greenspan, up to 11:30 p.m. and his message was that the American economy was on course for modest recovery, unemployment was falling and would continue to do so, productivity was increasing steadily as it has been doing since 1994, inventories had been run down to low levels and were now being rebuilt, and there were no signs of inflation. Being by nature, a cautious individual, he warned that it was too early to be certain that the recovery would be sustainable, but in the question-and-answer portion that followed his prepared remarks, he twice expressed confidence that it would be sustained, and that he would know in two to four months. He also warned that high oil prices could slow down world recovery but did not seem unduly worried about it. He said that current rates were appropriate, which indicates that the Fed will not be hiking interest rates in the next few months.

Altogether, it was an optimistic speech but on the preceding day, the Dow had risen 205 points and a sizeable speculative bull position built up, so a certain amount of profit-taking left the Dow with a loss of 80 points. Bond traders, however, went home reassured that nothing was going to happen in the short term.

He also commented that Japan has been facing a prolonged period of recession and deflation, but he felt that the government was getting to grips with the problems and this has been reflected in a good performance by the Nikkei recently.

China announced that GDP for the first quarter to March 31 had grown by 7.6 percent, which was fractionally ahead of the 7.5-percent forecast. However, the rate of growth was considered insufficient and money is being poured into infrastructure. China is going to provide the main competition for Asian countries particularly as it is now a member of the World Trade Organization. Quotas previously imposed will be progressively dismantled over the next 4 years.

In Europe, growth was about 2 percent and the overall inflation rate was also 2 percent, on target. There were, of course, variations within the 15 countries.

Turning to the Phisix, the Relative Strength Index in November reached an unprecedented 86, which is the highest figure I have ever seen. On Jan. 9, 1997, when the index peaked at 3440, the RSI was 82. When it fell to 1075 and recovered to 2620, the RSI was 72. When President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office as President, the index opened 500 points higher and closed with a gain of 270 points. Again, the Relative Strength Index was 72, so the figure of 86 in January 2002, suggested that the market was extremely overbought. It continued to rise until Feb. 19, when the index peaked at 1469 and the RSI was 81. During the past 2-1/2 months, the market has been consolidating with a slightly downward bias and the RSI has unwound itself, hitting a low of 46. This puts it in the neutral range, as 30 represents oversold and 70 overbought.

It was just my bad luck that I started the newsletter in February but at least, on the first day, I told subscribers to sell their holdings. On the second day, I repeated the warning only this time in block capitals. In the next three days, the Phisix fell 72 points and has been moving sideways ever since. The timing of the newsletter was very unfortunate because I was only able to generate one excellent BUY of FLI at P1.98. Recently, I noted the breakout of ICT at P2.55 but wrote that I was hesitant to recommend any BUYS as I was worried about the Middle East situation. The stock promptly soared to P3 and touched a high of P3.05. Next day, I advised subscribers to ignore my personal feelings and follow the charts.

What does the future hold? Obviously, nobody knows but, seasonally, May and June tend to be good months so I am hoping to produce more BUY signals in the months ahead. I can at least console myself that I got the SELL recommendation dead right and hope that subscribers will exercise patience, which is an essential discipline. As always, you can contact me at *mrbearbull@hotmail.com.*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 19, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72	75	71.5	75	2,128,100
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	5,550
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	38.5	38.5	347,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	30,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41	38	40.5	739,900
Philippine National Bank	56	56.5	56	56	12,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	19.25	18.5	19.25	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22	22.5	41,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	175,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1385	1385	1385	1385	470
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1085	1080	1085	20,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34.5	34	34.5	83,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.62	5,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	810	805	805	40,970
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	480,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	41,000
Piltel	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	505	487.5	490	281,010
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	23,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29	29	28.5	28.5	56,100
Manila Electric Co. B	48	48	47.5	47.5	1,713,800
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.64	7,926,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.56	1,276,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.9	5,186,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	24,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	92,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	291,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	22.25	25	22.25	24.75	1,081,600
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	624,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	145,600
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57.5	56.5	57.5	845,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.6	11,197,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.08	0.11	0.08	0.11	15,300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	1,054,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	30,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.0092	14,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	65,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.66	14,950,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.26	560,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7	7	6,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	211,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	521,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	350,000
Ionics Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	17,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	64,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	1,130,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.76	0.63	0.75	1,290,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,630,000
Music Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,710,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	860,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.56	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	39,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	3,680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	210,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	80,000
Manila Jockey Club	12.5	13	12	13	25,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	380,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35	35	34.5	35	163,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	770	770	770	770	100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.18	1.18	1	1	159,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	10,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	12.75	12.75	18,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	3,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	8,992,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	990,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	3,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	22,775,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	250,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	9,748,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	7,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	280,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	21,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	800,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	400,000

PSE probe finds insider trading activity in FLI

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has found evidence indicating that some directors and shareholders of the Filinvest group, controlled and largely owned by the Gotianun family, were involved in alleged insider trading of publicly listed Filinvest Land Inc. prior to the company's disclosure of a controversial bond deal, a source familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER.

The source said the PSE's compliance and surveillance group made this conclusion in an investigation into the issue and would soon file its investigative report with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC will then evaluate the report, conduct hearings and decide whether to file a complaint with the justice department against those involved in the alleged insider trading activities.

The PSE was also preparing to slap fines against FLI for failing to disclose the bond deal earlier, the source said.

Records showed that the directors/shareholders sold their shares while aware of then ongoing serious negotiations on a deal to allow Reco Grandhomes Pte. Ltd., a unit of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. Pte., to buy P1.2 billion in bonds convertible immediately into FLI shares at a price ranging from P1.70 to P1.875.

The conversion price, however, was much lower than Filinvest's P2.60 per share price on the day the disclosure was made in early February. To date, Reco has not yet converted the bonds but, if it does, its stake in FLI would be raised to as much as 23.4 percent from 12 percent.

As a result of the disclosure, Filinvest's share price plunged and a lot of investors lost money. They blamed FLI's alleged failure to disclose significant information that had affected the trading of the stock.

Thereafter, 30 PSE brokers signed a letter urging the PSE to question alleged trading irregularities involving FLI.

Stockbrokers also urged the PSE to take steps to prevent a fiasco similar to FLI's controversial P1.2-billion convertible bond float that led to a sharp drop in the property firm's stock prices.

The PSE then placed FLI under scrutiny over the allegations that some people might have benefited from insider information on the terms of the bond issue.

For its part, FLI had explained that while negotiations with the foreign investor had been going on for months, the deal was finalized only in February.

Bargain-hunting seen lifting stocks

From page B1

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said funds were still likely to be rotated in listed stocks that were either added to or those that obtained improved rankings in the MCSI index.

"Meanwhile, contrarians will stay selective on issues whose share were downgraded in MSCI's portfolio, by focusing more on potential positive stories. For now, the market would have to establish enough depth and breadth in terms of fund participation, to propel indices higher at 1,450 to 1,500," it said.

BPI Securities said the rebound seen on Friday was encouraging but inconclusive, as the market was having difficulty breaking out of the 1,400 level.

"We may see bargain hunting on selected issues continuing this week. Offhand, we are looking for major index issues which were sold down this week to lead the market's possible rally over the next few trading days. It remains to be seen if the buying momentum will be sufficiently strong for the market to test the 1,450 resistance," BPI Securities said.

One positive story, however, is the buyback of its own shares announced by La Tondeña Distillers Inc., which was also a big gainer last week. LTDI, which also announced favorable first-quarter profits, is starting to generate fresh interest for the first time since it divested $141 million worth of fast-growing, non-liquor businesses to affiliate Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

Traders said the release of first-quarter earnings should also give investors incentive on how to take position in various companies.

Investors are also looking forward to market-moving stories that may arise amid the season of stockholders' meetings. For this week, among the big companies that are holding their annual meetings are: LTDI, Metrobank, SM Prime, ABS-CBN, Pilipino Telephone Co., Purefoods Corp. and SM Prime.

Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc., a spin-off property unit of Belle Corp. which is majority-controlled by retail tycoon Henry Sy, is also set to list on the PSE tomorrow.

RP to tighten imports . . .

From page B1

standards while using the same discriminatory measures to repel competing imports from entering its home market.

The government's ultimatum is based on the commitment made by the Australian government to wrap up a quarantine study on pineapples by end-June this year and pineapples in the third quarter.

Although Malacañang is reluctant to get mired in an all-out trade war with Australia, the source said it was ready to impose measures that would make it difficult for Australia to ship its milk and dairy products into the country, such as initiating a review of milk standards.

Tighter milk import controls are likely to be complemented by a planned boycott of Australian milk products by Philippine manufacturers such as Nestlé and Alaska who, according to Presidential Adviser Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr., were reportedly "sympathetic" to the plight of Philippine fruit producers. Lorenzo is head of Lapanday Holdings, which controls giant fruit producer Del Monte.

In a previous interview, Lorenzo said suppliers from New Zealand and Europe could immediately replace those from Australia, which accounts for 95 percent of the country's milk consumption. Lorenzo claimed that milk importers could even bargain for better terms by shifting to other suppliers such as New Zealand.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, who was the first to voice out the Philippines' intent to bolt the Cairns group, went out of his way to deny rumors that the government was planning to ban Australian milk and dairy product imports. He claimed that prices of milk have gone up slightly because of speculation on a milk ban.

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Manila Southwoods A/B	640,000/700,000
Metropolitan A	100,000
Mimosa Indv./C-3	120,000/230,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	350/400/500
Orchard "A"/B/C	210/300/320
Quezon City Sports	210,000
Riviera "A"/B/C	Please call
Royale Tagaytay	75,000
Sta. Elena A/B	Please call/[illegible]
Rockwell Club	420,000
Subic Yacht (Indiv.)/Corp	150/330
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	420,000/650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	760,000
Wack Wack	6,550,000

Alabang A	1,650,000
Alta Vista	270,000
Baguio Country Club	730,000
Calatagan A	75,000
Camp John Hay Golf	250,000
Capitol Hills	125,000
Celebrity	180,000
Club Filipino	150,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	340/400/550
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	230/250/230
Luisita	320,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	11M/Please call
Manila Polo	2,750,000
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	630,000/680,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	250,000/250,000
Metropolitan "A"/B	100,000/100,000
Orchard A/B/C	210/300/320
Philippine Columbian	Please call
Puerto Azul	100,000
Quezon City Sports	210,000
Riviera A/C	185/250
Sta. Elena A/B	1,750,000/2.1M
Rockwell Club	400,000
Sherwood	100,000
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	400,000/650
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000
Valle Verde CC	150,000
Valley Golf	250,000
Wack Wack	6,875,000

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5. CANLUBANG GC	625,000	------	Dec 90
6. CAPITOL HILLS	CALL NOW	------	Oct 90
7. CC AT TAGAYTAY	CALL NOW	------	<Pre-sell
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	CALL NOW	------	Nov 96
9. EAGLERIDGE "A"	------	300,000	—
10. EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	------	—
11. FOREST HILLS "A"	CALL NOW	------	—
12. MAKATI SPORTS "A"	------	250,000	—
13. MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	CALL NOW	------	Dec 94
14. MANILA POLO CLUB	------	CALL NOW	—
15. MLA SOUTHWOODS 'A'/'B'	.67M/ .725M	------	<Pre-sell
16. ORCHARD "A"/ "C"	.25M/ .55M	------	<Pre-sell
17. QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	CALL NOW	------	May 95
18. RIVIERA GCC "A"	CALL NOW	------	Oct 00
19. STA. ELENA "A"	1,800,000	------	Oct 95
20. SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	------	CALL NOW	—
21. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	900,000	------	<Pre-sell
22. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-----	730,000	—
23. THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	------	—
24. VALLEY GOLF	------	220,000	—
25. WACK WACK GOLF	CALL NOW	6,800,000	Mar 98

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EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	45,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

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CAPITOL HILLS	FOREST HILLS "A"	ORCHARD "A" w/ lot	TAGAYTAY HL GOLF
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Calatagan Golf Club "A"	90,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	280,000
Canlubang	-	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	110,000	130,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	195,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,500,000	13,000,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	640,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	690,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	100,000	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	230,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	90,000	130,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	190,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands	840,000	860,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,900,000	7,200,000

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Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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3 CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	-	100,000 all-in
4 CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	750,000.00	-
5 CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000.00	-
6 CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
7 COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	400,000.00
8 CLUB FILIPINO	220,000.00	-
9 EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	190,000.00
10 EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB	340,000.00	-
11 FONTANA "D"	80,000.00	
12 FONTANA "C"	100,000.00	-
13 MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	-	250,000.00
14 MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	-	11,000,000.00
15 MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,630,000.00
16 MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	700,000.00	-
17 MIMOSA	150,000.00	-
18 MT. MALARAYAT "B"	400,000.00	-
19 ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	275,000.00	-
20 ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	550,000.00	-
21 PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
22 PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	-
23 ROYALE TAGAYTAY	75,000.00	-
24 ROCKWELL	650,000.00	-
25 RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000.00	-
26 STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000.00	-
27 STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	
28 SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	180,000.00	-
29 SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	230,000.00	2,000,000.00
30 SPA & LODGE	500,000.00	-
31 TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	730,000.00
32 VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	210,000.00
33 VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
34 WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,100,000.00	-
35 THE COUNTRY CLUB	4,000,000.00	-
36 OTHERS	Please call	

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P30,000.00	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	50,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	40,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	20,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	25,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
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Singapore bank execs see RP recovery

VISITING officials from the Development Bank of Singapore Ltd. (DBS Bank) expressed their positive outlook on the Philippine economy for the year 2002 in a briefing held in Manila.

After a 3.4-percent growth in GDP in 2001, DBS forecasts a 3.8-percent growth this year.

Fong Cheng Hong, DBS chief economist, said that the Philippines is hedging on US growth with declining interest rates. She said that the worst was behind for the United States and that its economy was expected to record a benign growth in 2002.

Consumer confidence has risen from its post-Sept. 11 low. US consumption grew by 6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001 compared with one percent in the third quarter of the same year. On the other hand, sentiments among manufacturers have improved significantly and point toward expansion. However, growth in US industrial production for 2002 will be more on inventory restocking and not investment-led growth.

Following signs of economic recovery in the United States, the Philippines is expected to trail behind. The Philippine electronics exports, which account for more than 50 percent of the country's total exports, lags US electronics new orders by about three to six months.

Oil imports down 12.8% last year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE SLUGGISH demand for oil brought down the country's net oil import bill by 13.8 percent from $3.7 billion in 2000 to $3.2 billion last year.

Importation of both crude and refined products declined by a total of 2.6 percent, according to documents from the Department of Energy.

The figure means local oil companies bought 3.7 billion barrels less in 2001 than they did the previous year.

The oil companies have noted a decline in oil demand last year due to the economic slowdown in the United States and Japan, the country's two major trading partners.

Petron Corp., the biggest domestic refiner, also said the government's policy of reducing dependence on oil for power generation has taken a toll on the firm's business.

The government has been aggressively promoting the use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, hydro and wind power.

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BRIDGESTONE
A GRIP ON THE FUTURE

SEC sets up hotline for investment scam queries

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission announced Thursday that it has established a hotline for queries on boiler room operators, pyramid schemes and other companies that may be involved in dubious financial schemes.

The hotline numbers are 725-8260 and 725-3418 and will be answered by lawyers Adolfo Gonzalez and Sarah Crespillo of the SEC's office of the general counsel during office hours.

SEC officials said that if there were any doubts whether a company was operating legally or not, the public could check by calling the hotline.

"So they will be alerted not to deal with these companies because there is an investigation or pending case," an SEC official said.

The SEC has been aggressive in shutting down the operations of boiler room operators, pyramid-schemes and lending investors that are primarily engaged in the sale of securities or investment contracts not registered with the SEC.

The modus operandi of a boiler room operator is to employ telemarketers and foreigners who, as unregistered brokers, use high-pressure sales techniques and promises of exorbitant returns on investments to fraudulently sell overseas securities.

Pyramid schemes, however, involve the promise of returns for recruiting sales people even though there are virtually no products or services being sold.

The SEC has also had a problem with many lending investors who accept placements from more than 19 investors or lenders.

The investor's alert hotline will be apart from an earlier established public assistance hotline for questions on registration of companies and partnership and other related issues. The hotline numbers for these questions are: 725-4118 or 726-0931 to 39 loc. 243 or 279.

Recently, the SEC has also launched an online name verification and corporate registration system. This will allow applicants to verify and reserve corporate names as well as apply for registration of companies, partnerships or non-profit organizations.

Applicants need to only access the SEC website at www.sec.gov.ph and follow the instructions provided.

Cocktales

From page B3

Friday when informed that an Erap EO had actually reduced the tariff rates on imported onions.

The trouble is, the government must hold public hearings per WTO rules before the old tariff rate may be reinstated, said Montemayor. Now, that could take some time.

The bigger question that has to be answered is, which Chinoy importer had the inside track about the secretive Erap scheme?

Minor victory for Chiongbian

CEBU-BASED businessman Victor Chiongbian is the majority partner of Napocor president-on-leave Jesus Alcordo in the lawsuit against El Paso Energy that was reported in this column on April 17.

Chiongbian, Alcordo, and company sued the Houston-based firm after the energy company allegedly reneged on its commitment to purchase their shareholdings in a Cebu power plant at an agreed price.

El Paso acquired the majority control of the East Asia power plant in the island-province in 1999 from Filinvest Development Corp., but allegedly left out Chiongbian, Alcordo, and other minority shareholders in a subsequent sellout after asking the group to waive their preemptive rights in a rights offering.

The minority shareholders have a total claim of P215 million, excluding litigation costs.

Because of the damage suit, the Cebu Regional Trial Court has ordered the attachment of known bank deposits of the El Paso Group in 15 local banks as well as placing a similar encumbrance on a number of real estate properties.

Alcordo was president of East Asia power firm until end-2000. In an ironic twist of fate, Alcordo shortly thereafter was appointed by the new Macapagal administration as president of National Power Corp., placing his former El Paso bosses under his regulatory supervision.

Because of the impending lawsuit, Alcordo decided to go on leave until the Department of Justice clarifies that such a suit against El Paso and his ex-bosses would pose no conflict of interest on his part.

Alcordo has already divested of his shareholdings in East Asia in favor of his family to further preclude any conflict-of-interest question.

West Coast promos

NORTHWEST Airlines is again offering its buy-one, take-one free business class package to Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Seattle.

The twin ticket costs $3,172, as against the usual $1,900 single fare. The promo ticket must be purchased not later than May 31, with departure out of Manila allowed up to June 30. The twin-ticketed passengers must travel together, and must return no later than July 15. No stopovers permitted.

Philippine Airlines, which flies non-stop to LA and SF, is offering a similar buy-one, take-one free promo, at $3,232.

Short takes

- ADOLF Azcuna is not only the lawyer of "Don" Emilio Yap but also president of Manila Prince Hotel Corp., the Yap company that controls the Manila Hotel. If the GSIS suit against Yap for non-payment of some P600-million debt would push through, then it would mean Azcuna would also be impleaded as a defendant like Yap.
- THE JUDGE hearing the multibillion-peso Aguirre inheritance dispute, Eleuterio Guerrero of the Pasay Regional Trial Court, has buckled down to tremendous pressure and inhibited himself from the case.

Heard through the grapevine

ROCKWELL Land is set to inaugurate tomorrow the flyover on Edsa that leads into the high-end mall/condo complex.

The 549-meter, two-lane ramp is actually part of a planned bridge that would cross Pasig and connect Rockwell with Mandaluyong.

(Tip: Property prices are expected to appreciate considerably along that squatter-infested corridor, since the government is also planning to widen the roads on both banks of the river. The planned riverside drive should gentrify the area.)

The Lopezes spent P210 million to build the flyover, but forked out about P500 million more to buy and demolish the houses and obtain the right-of-way along the Estrella Street side of Bel-Air.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM EL COMEDOR WORTH ₱7,000
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GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM GLORIA MARIS WORTH ₱7,000
Rogelio B. Yu, Las Piñas City
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Ma. Milagros R. Salapantan, Quezon City

CASH CREDITS WORTH ₱5,000
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Leonardo R. Narciso, Muntinlupa City
Gilberto M. Tumbocon, Pasig City
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Evelyn T. Deles, Las Piñas City
Rewadee Fanega, Makati City
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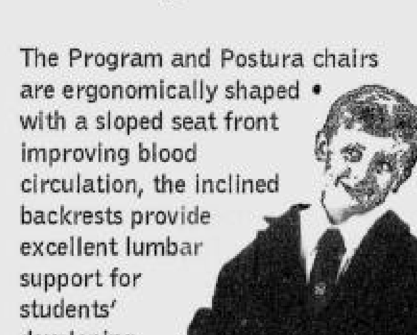
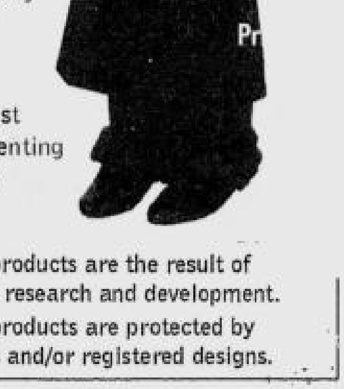
Congratulations to all the winners! And heartfelt thanks to all MasterCard cardholders for joining the Priceless Pleasures Promo.

The 3rd Monthly Draw of the MasterCard Priceless Pleasures Promo was held on March 15, 2002 at the MasterCard Intl. office and was witnessed by DTI-NCR Rep. Monette de Perio.





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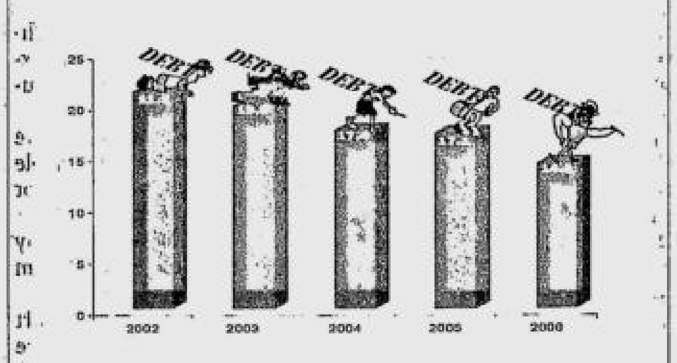
INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected debt service ratio

(2002 to 2006, in percent)



Source: National Economic & Development Authority's Medium Term Development Plan

THE GOVERNMENT sees an increase in Philippine exports and a corresponding decline in the country's debt servicing ratio. The ratio refers to the portion of total exports of goods and services that goes to the payment of debts.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

MERGER WITH METROBANK

BSP may sell Global Bank license

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it might consider selling a commercial banking license to a new player despite a moratorium on licensing and branching once Global Bank surrendered its license to operate.

"The central bank may consider selling a license because there will be an available slot with the merger of Global Bank with Metrobank," said BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

The Metrobank Group, the country's largest, merged the operations and some branches of Global Bank with its own. As a combined unit, Metrobank's assets reached P446.256 billion making it one of the 10 largest banks in Asia.

Metrobank transferred about 15 of Global Bank's branches to its subsidiary PS Bank, which operates as a thrift bank.

The BSP imposed a moratorium on issuing new branch and bank licenses in 1999. The General Banking Law of 2000 supported the moratorium and provided a two-year extension.

The rule means that a bank that has fully used its branch license is not allowed to put up additional branches unless it buys a branch license from other banks.

However, banks cannot buy or sell banking licenses, which emanate only from the BSP, Reyes said. If a bank sells out lock, stock and barrel, its license goes with it.

"Had Global Bank opted to sell out lock, stock, and barrel, it could have sold the license with it. But since Metrobank absorbed its operations and most of the branches, Global Bank has to surrender its license," he added.

As of end-2001, Metrobank's assets stood at P386.646 billion while Global Bank had assets worth P59.611.

Reyes noted, however, that it would be up to the Monetary Board to decide whether to sell Global Bank's license.

He admitted that the monetary authorities were biased in favor of cutting down the number of players in the banking industry. Selling the license may contradict its call for mergers and consolidations in the industry.

The BSP has been urging banks to consolidate and enhance their competitiveness, or to increase their capital either through equity infusion or the so-called tier-two capital.

PSALM, San Pascual to scrap power purchase agreement

By Ronnel W. Domingo

POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. and independent power producer San Pascual Cogeneration Co. are preparing for the termination of their power purchase agreement.

In a document shown to the INQUIRER, San Pascual Cogen had asked PSALM to prepare a draft settlement agreement.

San Pascual Cogen officials, in the same document, said finalizing such an agreement could start after PSALM presented the draft termination document.

They noted that both parties had agreed in principle on an arrangement where the development bond posted and "some if not all the costs" incurred by San Pascual Cogen would be returned to the company.

San Pascual Cogen signed a power purchase deal with National Power Corp. in 1997. Under the deal, San Pascual Cogen will operate starting in 2004 a 300-megawatt power plant in Batangas. However, the construction of the plant never took off.

Texaco—which has merged with Chevron—and Edision Mission Energy, also of the United States, are the general partners that formed the San Pascual Cogen Co.

Last week, the INQUIRER reported that PSALM was in talks with two more private power producers on possible changes in their contracts.

PSALM, which is taking over Napocor's assets as well as its contracts, is also negotiating with Enron Philippines Power Corp. on a contract buyout.

But PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso declined to give details on the two other negotiations.

"The two contracts have different cases, but they are not hard up on finances like Enron," Del Fonso said in a telephone interview.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said PSALM was negotiating with private power firms on the possible cancellation of their supply deals with Napocor.

"PSALM is trying to reduce the costs that consumers are shouldering," Perez said. "We have excess power supply in the country."

Also last week, Perez said a government panel had reviewed 12 of the 45 contracts between Napocor and IPPs but added that the panel had to go through the other deals before it could decide on any action.

"We have to finish everything because we need to compare the results of the review on each contract to determine what actions to take," Perez told the INQUIRER.

Cause-oriented groups have demanded the scrapping of the contracts with the IPPS that, they claimed, were grossly disadvantageous to the government.

The Citizen's Review Commission on the IPPs said these contracts were directly responsible for the sky-high costs of electricity.

RP seen getting bulk of rice import requirement from India

By Christine A. Gaylican

INDIA'S state trading firm Projects and Equipment Corp. will get the first crack in the remaining 145,000 metric tons of rice to be imported by the Philippines this year, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said.

Montemayor said the Indian trading firm submitted the lowest bid during the auction for the first batch of the country's rice imports this year of 245,000 metric tons. For the entire year, the country is planning to import a total of 390,000 metric tons of rice.

Of the 245,000 metric tons already contracted, 100,000 metric tons will come from India, while the rest will be shared by other suppliers from Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Since it has the price advantage, Montemayor said the Indian state trading firm would have the right to be the first to negotiate with the Philippine government for the remaining import requirement.

Montemayor said in an interview that the country got favorable concessions with India, Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan for the country's rice import requirements for the year.

He said India, for instance, had agreed to a counter-trading arrangement where it would buy Philippine goods and services in e-services, marine products, motor vehicle parts and micro-electronics in exchange for rice.

"We opted for a counter-trading arrangement with these countries to give our local exports a boost," said Montemayor.

Though the government has backtracked on its plan to allow local farmers to engage in the importation of rice, Montemayor said it would continue encouraging them to participate in the distribution and marketing of the rice imports.

"We felt that it is not yet time for the farmers to import rice directly because prices in the world market is still quite high at $170 to $180 per metric ton. It will not be profitable for them," said Montemayor.

Philippine International Trading Corp., the government's trading arm, has been tasked to undertake the importation.

Of the first batch of rice imports, 25,000 metric tons will come from Pakistan's Trading Corp.; 50,000 metric tons from Vietnam Southern Food Corp., and 70,000 metric tons from the Department of Foreign Trade of Thailand.

The contracts were awarded based on prices, volumes, delivery schedules and counter-trading offers submitted by the bidders.

India, Thailand and Vietnam will deliver the first batch of 180,000 metric tons of rice in May and June.

Failure of falling interest rates to lift local economy worries bank official

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES has landed in a worrisome situation where low interest rates are failing to lift the economy, a bank industry official has warned.

"This situation is no longer healthy," Union Bank of the Philippines president Victor Valdepeñas said in an interview.

Credit flow, which is needed to jumpstart economic recovery, is not there, he said.

Valdepeñas said there was still pressure for treasury bill rates to go down and chart new record lows, but it seemed that only the government was gaining from the situation.

In last week's auction, the benchmark 91-day T-bill rate dropped to a new record low of 4.347 percent.

Rates of longer-dated debt notes also fell to new lows of 4.943 percent for the 182-day tenor and 5.548 percent for the 364-day instrument.

"The low level of interest rates will stay for a long time, but it is not necessarily good for the economy," Valdepeñas said.

Traditionally, T-bill rates track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates, and the benchmark 91-day yield is being used by banks as a measure of their own interest rates.

"But with recent developments, we could see that the correlation of interest rates with economic activity is somewhat de-linked," Valdepeñas said.

"This means that the efficacy and the efficiency of interest rates as a tool are no longer there," he added.

He explained that in a normal situation, the huge drop in T-bill rates should compel banks to lend more and spur consumption, both ultimately leading to economic growth.

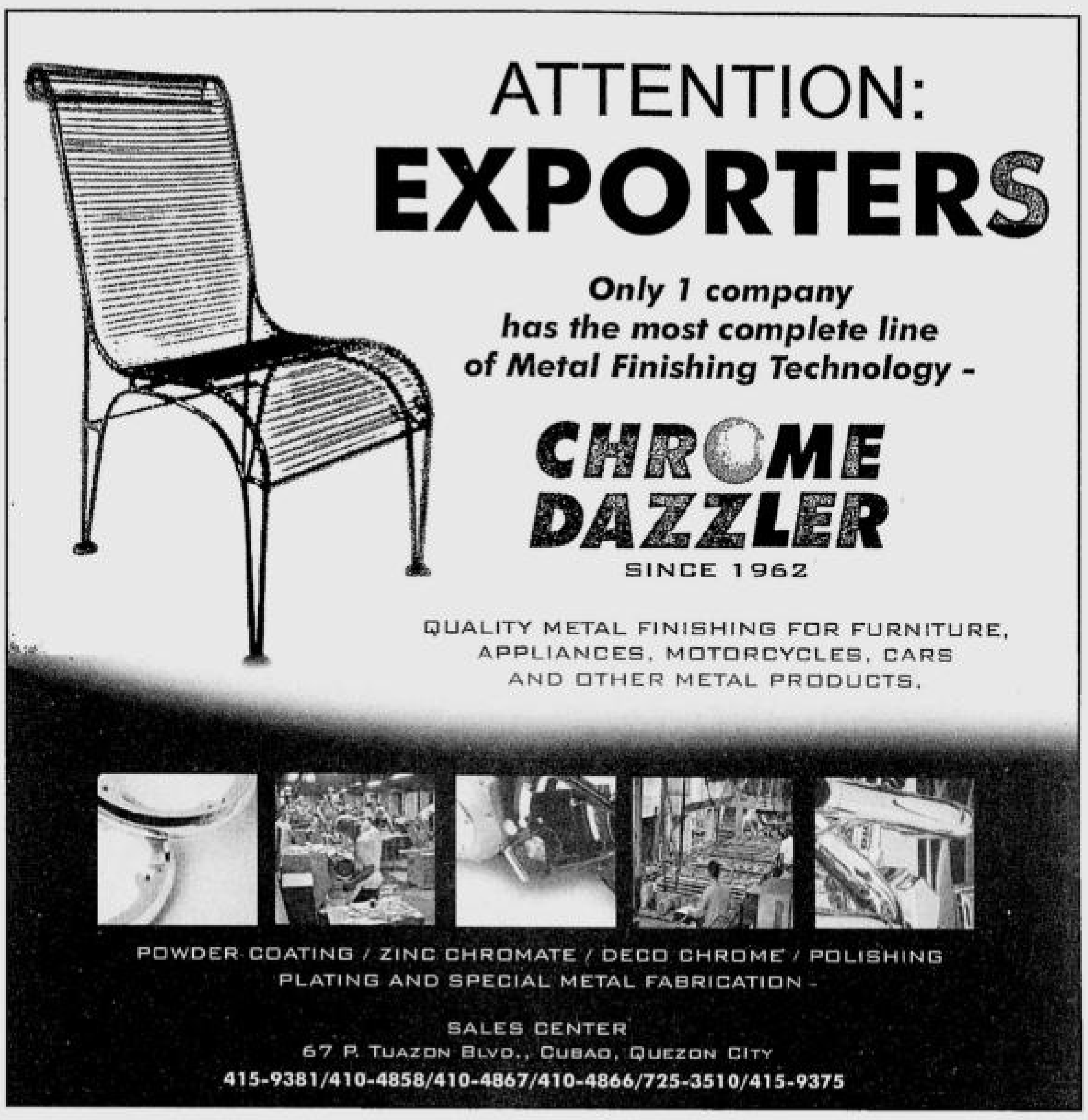
As the situation stands, however, banks remain reluctant to lend, especially to those they perceive as credit-risk sectors, line small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Big corporations, which banks are eager to lend to, however, are not forming a beeline for new loans, as they remain saddled with excess capacity.

"Why should they borrow when they have no use for the money because of the huge inventories?" Valdepeñas asked.

He said banks were instead looking for other sources of revenue, like providing cash management services.

He reported that Union Bank last year posted P1.1 billion in net income, up 33 percent from the previous year.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SEC seeks help to enforce governance code

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will ask the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Board of Investments to require companies under their jurisdiction to comply with a Code of Corporate Governance recently approved by the Commission.

"I'm going to write (them) if it's possible that the corporate governance code can be enforced by the BOI and BSP," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters last week.

Bautista said that this was in line with a thrust to achieve "co-operative regulation" wherein different regulatory agencies have harmonized rules and regulations.

The SEC chair earlier proposed that the government begin considering the merits of having a single regulator for financial institutions and securities given that many countries around the region have started moving in that direction.

The Code of Corporate Governance is aimed at preventing corporate failures arising from conflict of interest or from simple neglect of board directors to properly oversee management.

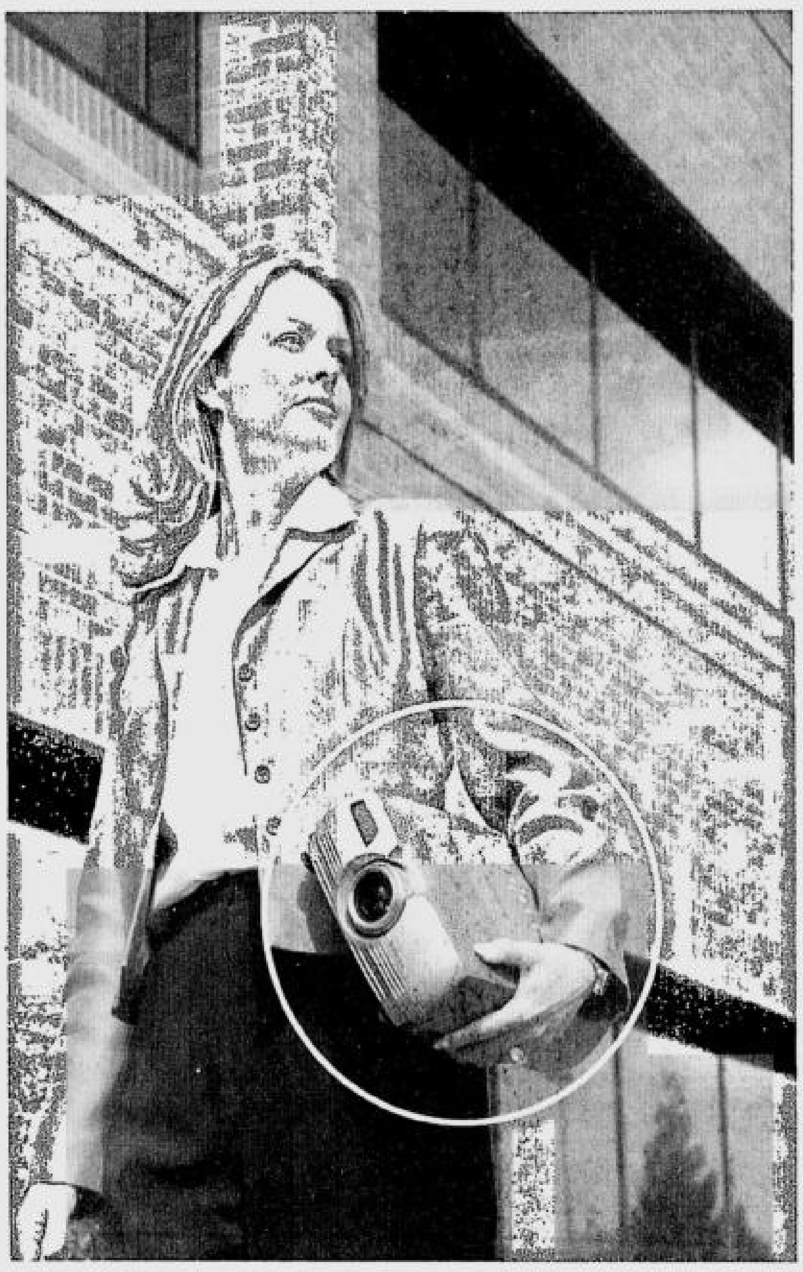
Specifically, the SEC requires public companies or units of foreign public companies and those with a secondary license from the SEC such as pre-need companies, investment houses and the like to come up with a manual of operations based on the Code of Corporate Governance within a year. Companies should also rotate their external auditors regularly. The covered companies will face penalties for non-compliance.

The Macapagal administration has been strongly promoting governance reforms in the Philippine corporate sector in light of the failure of some financial institutions and companies allegedly because of bad management and the ignorance of board directors. The government last October adopted the Guidelines for Good Corporate Governance Practices endorsed by the Apec.

Under the Code of Corporate Governance, a company's board of directors is given special responsibility for adhering to the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency in directing the affairs of the corporation.

Board directors who do not attend regularly, who do not disclose the extent of their business interest and do not meet other

SEC/ B9



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Levi Celerio's wealth

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

I NEVER had the pleasure of meeting the late Levi Celerio. A couple of times I caught him being interviewed on TV. I thought he was an all-around nice guy, someone I would have enjoyed sharing a few rounds of beer with.

Then, in Christmas of 1995, my publisher Lory Tan of Bookmark gifted me a copy of "Teklado" (Bookmark Audio Publishing, 1989), a tape of a dozen Filipino songs played by pianist Gerry Paraiso. Inside the cassette were the lyrics, five of which were by Levi Celerio. That was when I discovered his genius.

Compared with the works of the other lyricists featured in the tape, Celerio's lyrics are as clear as a bell and never teary and sentimental. For example, Nicanor Abelardo wrote, "Nasaan ka irog? Nasaan ka irog? / At dagling nagparam ang iyong paggiliw / Di baga sumpa mong akoy mamahalin? / Iyong itatangi, iyong itatangi magpahanggang libing / Subalit nasaan ang iyong pagtingin."

Under the same predicament, Celerio wrote to a Restie Umali song, "Saan ka man naroroon sinta / Pagibig kong wagas ang 'yong madarama. / Kailan pa man sa iyo'y di lilimot / Pusong uhaw sa 'yong pagibig. / Saan ka man naroroon sinta / Pangarap ko'y ikaw pagkat mahal kita. / Asahan mong sa habang panahon / Alaala kita, saan ka man naroroon."

Constancio C. de Guzman wrote these rather contrived and ornithologically incorrect lyrics, "Bakit kaya na ulila / Puso'y laging may dusa / Nagtatampo ang ligaya / At laging may luha ang mata. / Ibon ang aking katulad / Na di na makalipad, / Dahil sa hirap at pagod / Sa paghanap nang kanyang pugad."

Look at Celerio's simple lyrics to a Leopoldo Silos song, "Lagi kitang naalala / Kahit na pilitin kong limutin ka. / Nilimot na kita sa aking buhay / Pangarap din ikaw. / Habang kita ay nililimot / Ay lalong sumisidhi ang pagibig / Sa aking puso ay nakalarawan / Pagibig mo, hirang."

In a TV interview, Celerio said that his lyrics went straight to the point—*walang pa ligoy-ligoy*—as American lyricists were wont to do. There was no running around the bushes, as Oscar Hammerstein wrote in the musical Carousel, "If I loved you / Time and again I would try to say / How I'd want you to know. / If I loved you / Words would not come in an easy way, / Round in circles I'd go. / Longing to tell you but afraid and shy. / I'd let my golden chances pass me by."

To another Restie Umali tune, Celerio wrote with no ifs and buts:

"Ikaw lamang ang aking iibigin magpakailanman.

Ang pagibig ko sa iyo ay tunay nais ko sanang patunayan

Huwag ka nang mag-alinlangan.

Ang pagibig ko ay hindi kukupas

Tulad din nang umagang may pag-asang sumisikat.

Ang ating buhay maikli aking hirang,

Kung kaya kailangan ang pagsuyong wagas kailanman.

Ang sumpa ko sa iyo'y asahan.

Ikaw lamang ang aking iibigin magpakailanman."

So, Celerio died poor. But his lyrics will live forever. He is immortal. What else is there?

Union Cement planning to retire P1.5B in debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNION Cement Corp., the country's biggest cement producer, is set to retire P1.5 billion in debts this year to bring down its debt load to P1.7 billion. The move is in line with the bank's efforts to enhance its competitiveness, particularly in view of the influx of imported cement in the local market.

UCC senior vice president and treasurer Eduardo Sahagun said the company would fund half or P750 million of the P1.5 billion worth of maturing debts through a loan syndicate led by Security Banking Corp.

The debts are maturing in the second half of this year, the bulk of the amount was in the form of long-term commercial papers (LTCPs). UCC has three series of LTCPs worth a total P600 million falling due on Dec. 20.

"We'll have very little debt after that, about P1.7 billion on an P11 billion in (stockholders') equity," Sahagun said. "After that, there will be only P300 million to P400 million in debts maturing yearly."

"We'll save a lot on interest charges from the P1.5 billion worth of debts to be retired," he said.

The Tariff Commission recently recommended the lifting of the provisional duty imposed on imported cement to bring down prices, as consumers complained that cement prices had risen more than three times since December 1998.

Despite the stiff competition posed by imported cement and the consolidation of big global cement producers, Sahagun said he was not expecting another round of consolidation among local cement manufacturers.

Two years ago, UCC was formed following a three-way merger among Hi Cement Corp., Davao Union Cement Corp. and Bacnotan Cement Corp. It is one of the companies under the management control of Philippine Investment-Management (Phinma) Inc.

UCC's foreign strategic partner is Dutch cement giant Holcim, which also has a significant stake in Alsons Cement Corp.

The Phinma-controlled cement group is one of the most profitable local cement manufacturers, posting almost a five-fold increase in net profits to P354.81 million last year from P61.17 million in 2000 despite the downturn in the construction sector.

Sahagun is confident that with UCC's strong balance sheet, it is well armed to compete with imported cement. He said he also had not given up hopes that the government would do something about dumping of imported cement in the local market.

While the government has yet to refine the tariffs on cement, he said UCC had put enough structures to compete and preserve its market share.

On his outlook for this year, UCC chair Ramon del Rosario Sr. told company stockholders: "We expect moderate growth for the local cement industry, provided that efforts to stimulate the economy lead to more housing and public works for the rest of the year."

"Assuming price stability is maintained, marketing initiatives take hold and further financing costs continue to decline with lower interest rates and reductions in your company's debt stock, we have reason to believe that 2002 will see significant gains in profitability," Del Rosario said.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(As of March 22, 2002)

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P	713,023,315
Due from Other Banks		1,596,874,913
Trading Account Securities – net		1,591,030,047
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments – net		705,614,923
Loans, Discounts & Advances – net		1,900,599,879
Equity Investments		5,000,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment – net		33,867,552
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired		66,742,000
Other Assets		171,010,499
TOTAL ASSETS	**P**	**6,783,763,228**
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	1,397,403,562
Time Deposits		2,296,239,069
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		1,563,833
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		13,943,864
Bills Payable		245,000,000
Other Liabilities		216,663,044
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**P**	**4,170,813,372**
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit		315,000,000
Surplus		445,953,821
Other Capital Accounts		1,996,035
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**P**	**2,612,949,856**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**P**	**6,783,763,228**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P	9,600,617,205
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		9,712,587,847
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals		5,127,708,591
Items Held in Trust		162,120,596
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	**P**	**24,603,034,239**

OTHER INFORMATION*
Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	6.3483%	2.4890%

Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P	-
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		0.0%
Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	P	66,696,000
General provision for loan losses	P	69,384,840
Specific provision for loan losses	P	16,674,000
Return on Equity (ROE)		3.05%
Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	P	45,771,610
Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		1.52%
Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	P	-
Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		-

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, **Vicente B. Castillo** and **Agnes B. Santos** of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) AGNES B. SANTOS
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICENTE B. CASTILLO
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this **15th** day of **April 2002** affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 11973021, issued at Makati City on April 5, 2002 and Resident Certificate No. 09751601 issued at Pasig City on January 7, 2002, respectively.

(Sgd) Oscar T. Zaldivar
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 6744215
Date Issued : January 10, 2002
Makati City
TIN 121-493-459

Doc. No. 147
Book No. 8
Page No. 31
Series of 2002

SECOND FOR THE YEAR

BSP raising $500M via 'Asians only' bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would tap very soon the "Asians only" dollar bond market to raise about $500 million in five-year funds to prepay debts maturing next year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank was likely to push through with its planned borrowing amid expectations that interest rates would start going up in the second half of the year.

"If we get good rates, we will do this very soon, most likely right after PLDT," said the central bank chief. PLDT plans to raise about $500 million from the foreign market to pay maturing loans.

The central bank said it would use portion of the proceeds of the upcoming bond issue to retire $700-million worth of loans maturing in 2003. The BSP said it might also settle portion of the $500 million in debts maturing in 2004.

Early this month, the BSP was planning to raise only about $350 million. The BSP governor noted that the improving spreads on Philippine borrowings because of the rising level of investor confidence could prompt monetary authorities to increase the size of the borrowing.

Analysts were projecting that local and foreign interest rates would move up by the second half of the year on the likely scenario that the United States would increase its short-term rates which stood at 1.75 percent.

Buenaventura said the five-year bond market seemed attractive and that its maturity appeared to suit the BSP's objective of lengthening the maturity of its borrowings.

The central bank chief said the BSP would likely tap the "Asians only" dollar bond market. "We want a registration-S. This is dollar denominated bonds that will be sold only to Asians including residents," said Buenaventura.

Another source said the BSP had received more than 12 proposals to underwrite its borrowings. The offers came from HSBC, JP Morgan Chase, Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank and ING Barings.

If plans push through, the "Asian only" borrowing will be the BSP's second for the year. Its first dollar fund-raising this year was done in January when it tapped the four-year Euro bond market for a $300 million loan, which was on top of the $500 million it raised from the same facility last year.

The BSP used the proceeds of the Euro bond deal last year to finance part of the deficit in the balance-of-payments and prevent the gross international reserves from falling below the psychological support of $14 billion.

GOINGS-ON

Writing contest

SHELL and The Economist have launched their third joint international writing prize. The $65,000-prize seeks to encourage future thinking, with the 2002 competition entitled "How much freedom should we trade for our security?"

The winning essay will receive $20,000 and will be published in The Economist, "The World in 2003." There will be two runner-up silver awardees to receive $10,000 each and five bronze awards with the prize of $5,000.

Entries should be submitted on or before Aug. 15 through e-mail, through the dedicated website: www.shelleconomistprize.com.

Food & Trade Expo 2002

THE WORLD'S Food & Trade Expo, last year's most successful food show with an estimated 20,000 visitors and over 220 exhibit booths, will be held again on Aug. 2 to 4 at the World Food Center.

The World's Food & Trade Expo 2002 promises to be the major international forum for foods. It will feature four new co-located events: "Baker's Fair," a showcase of baked products; "Taste Expo," a series of culinary competitions; "FoodMach 2002 Expo," featuring the latest technologies in the F&B industry, and "A Taste of Manila," a daily culinary feast of different themes.

ISO 9001:2000 seal

TELENOVA Systems Inc., a major player in the country's outsourced printing and mailing industry, obtained an ISO 9001:2000 certification from AOQC Moody International and Ukas (United Kingdom Accreditation Service).

Telenova is the first Filipino laser printing and mail processing service bureau to get the ISO seal.

ISO 9001:2000 certification confirms compliance of a company with international standards for quality, with special emphasis on a customer-centered culture.

AOQC and Ukas' ISO 19001:2000 auditing process subjects companies to stringent evaluation of management practices, operational efficiencies and quality of services, comparing them with identified global standards and regulations.

SEC seeks . . .

From page B8

requirements may be disqualified or suspended from the board.

The code provides for the formation of four board committees: audit and compliance, nomination, compensation and risk management, and calls on management to put in place a performance evaluation system that would be applied to the board and top management itself.

The circular also stated that board members should be provided with complete, adequate and timely information prior to board meetings and on an ongoing basis.

The Capital Market Development Council, a public-private sector policy group that includes the SEC and the Bangko Sentral, approved in January a "Corporate Governance Reform Program" for 2002 to 2004. This program enumerates proposals for corporate governance reforms, namely better protection of minority shareholders' rights, adherence to international auditing standards and increased transparency and disclosure of public companies.

"Two widely quoted international opinion surveys have demonstrated that many shareholders place a premium on good corporate governance, and that stocks of companies that demonstrate good corporate governance significantly outpace those that do not," Bautista said earlier.

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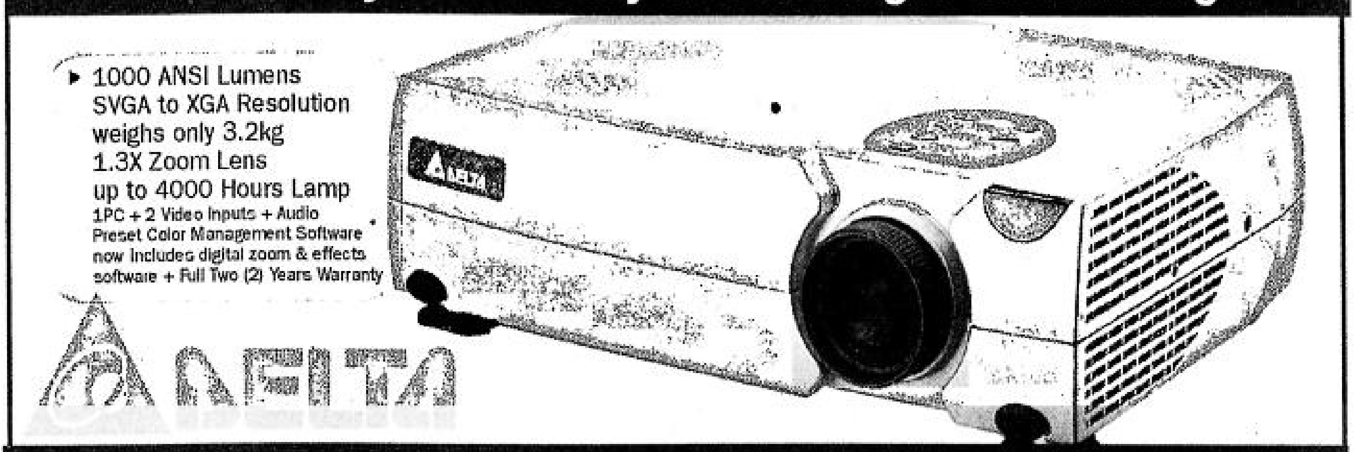

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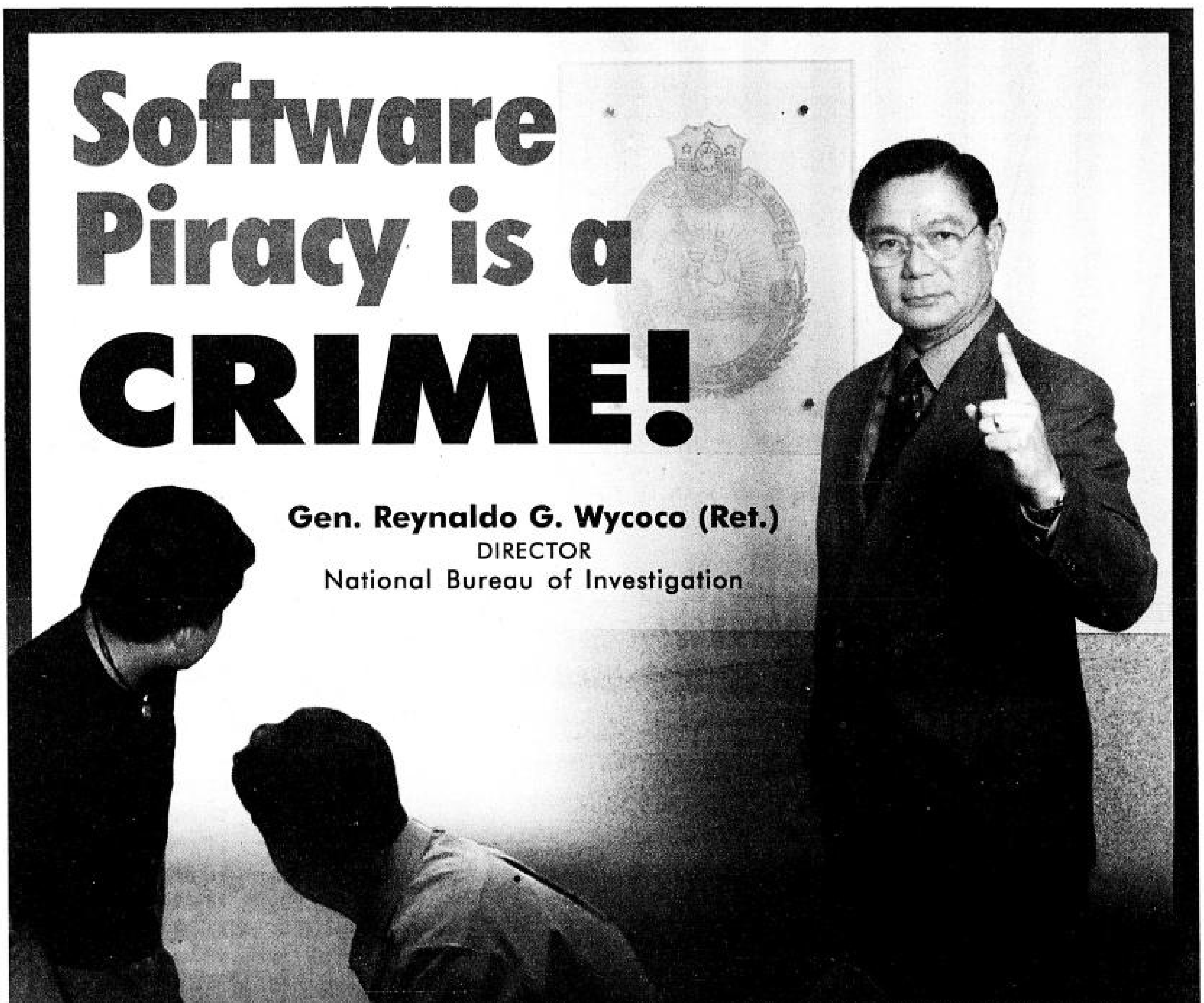

Software Piracy is a CRIME!

Gen. Reynaldo G. Wycoco (Ret.)
DIRECTOR
National Bureau of Investigation

Using unlicensed software is a violation of the country's Intellectual Property Code. If convicted, it is punishable by up to a P1.5 million fine and up to 9 years imprisonment.

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Starting May, the NBI will be cracking down on companies suspected of using illegal or pirated software. I therefore urge all companies to make sure that all their software products are fully licensed.

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You too, have a role in promoting our ICT sector. **Go ICT, Stop Software Piracy!**

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CDC rejection of ₱100-M project turns off HK-based investor

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

YATS International Ltd., a Hong Kong-based leisure estate financier and developer, is nonplussed over Clark Development Corp.'s decision to block its plan to invest roughly P100 million to expand its operations at the Clark special economic zone.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Yats International chief operating officer and director Denny Wang said he was "baffled" by CDC's cold shoulder treatment to the firm's plan to build a luxurious boutique hotel beside and a row of tony vacation houses at the CSEZ.

"Frankly, we don't understand why CDC rejected our new investment plans because they were well aware of our intentions when we signed the lease agreements to these properties last year," Wang said.

Yats International signed an agreement with CDC last August to take over a property and building near its existing project at the Mimosa Leisure Estate, the International Wine Club. Based on the lease agreement, Yats International intended to put up a digital musical and recording studio, snack bar and restaurant, wine bar and pub, catering services, and food concessionaire.

Yats International, however, had to go back to the drawing board after it decided to demolish the building (because of structural defect and termite infestation) and replace it with a new, low-rise structure.

Wang said his request for clearance to pursue other development plans for the property, specifically to build lodging accommodations and facilities for leisure, fitness and recreation, was thumbed down by CDC because "it was not suited to the overall development plan of Mimosa."

Wang wanted to build a super class, 6-suite boutique to attract business movers and shakers to close their deals in Clark. "It would have been a novelty and an option for businessmen who want to make a statement to their business partners," Wang said.

Yats International suffered yet another setback from the CDC for its plan to build five housing units on top of Lily Hill overlooking Clearwater.

Wang said CDC first claimed that the project was incompatible with the CSEZ's land use plan, which does not allow for residential units in the area because it is too close to the proposed third runway for the airport expansion.

Later, CDC claimed that residential units were disallowed in the property because of the electro magnetic force signal emitted by the telecommunication antennae in the area.

Next, CDC noted that except for the communications antennae, only single-story structures were allowed in the property to "preserve the scenic views in Lily Hill." Finally, CDC said it would not allow the construction of a swimming pool in the property because of the "sensitivity of the slope at Lily Hill where a historic cave is located."

Wang said the reasons cited by CDC came over the next three months after signing a lease agreement with Yats International in July 2001. The agreement stipulated that the leased properties of Yats International, including Lily Hill, was strictly for a recreational clubhouse, water theme park, poolside bar and garden café, outdoor sports and recreational facilities, low- to medium-rise lodging facilities or garden apartments, mini-mall specialty shops and convenience stores, and other operations related to the management and maintenance of the country club.

Wang said that Yats International's development plans for Lily Hill were well within the scope and nature of its lease contract with CDC.

He said CDC's indifference to Yats International became more conspicuous if one would consider that the company had already invested a total of P430 million in Clark since late 1999 (or during the time when investors going out in droves due to lack of confidence in the Estrada administration). It has spent P30 million for the Wine Club and P400 million for the Clearwater Country Club, a membership-only resort that boasts of a freshwater lake. The Wine Club has been in operation since 2000 while Clearwater is set for completion this year.

L'Oreal Group posts 75% growth in business from RP

L'OREAL Group's Philippine team recorded a 75-percent growth in sales last year, the best performance recorded among the French cosmetics giant's units in Asia.

In a year marked as "survival of the fittest" for most businesses, L'Oreal Philippines' parent company also recorded a significant increase despite disruptive world events.

Worldwide sales reached 13.7 billion euros last year, up 8.4 percent from the previous year.

The company reported an operating profit of 1.2 billion euros in 2001, a 19.6-percent increase year-on-year.

"Bringing beauty products that are better, different and innovative is not just formula for L'Oreal but part and parcel of our global mission," L'Oreal Philippine manager Paul-Henri Duillet said.

"Overall, the signs of success in 2001 could be based on good team work that gelled together in the midst of a crisis scenario," Duillet said.

As a relatively young player in the local market, he said, "the opportunity for significant growth looks beautifully promising."

He said L'Oreal's good performance last year was due to robust figures from the company's luxury brands, specifically from brands like Lancome, Ralph Lauren and Giorgio Armani.

Also contributing hefty returns to the company's bottom line are L'Oreal's consumer division, with brands like L'Oreal Paris (makeup, skincare, hair color and styling products), Maybelline (make-up) and Garnier (hair color).

Sales of these brands went up by 30 percent, the company reported.

Last year, L'Oreal Philippines had over 30 launches in the make-up segment alone. These excluded the burgeoning skin-care market in the Philippines.

Among L'Oreal's most promising skin-care product is L'Oreal Paris' UV White range.

"The remarkable growth of the L'Oreal consumer brands shows that there is a market for products in the P200 to P600 price range, and that under-P100 is not necessarily the market standard. We manufacture and market products with the idea of luxury made affordable," Duillet said.

ADB OK sought for ₱589-M Butuan airport rehab

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER years of waiting, the Butuan City Airport may soon get a much needed P589-million facelift when the Asian Development Bank hands down its final nod for the project.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said in a statement last week that the ADB was expected to give its concurrence for the project soon.

The expansion and upgrade of the Butuan City Airport needed the ADB approval as it was part of the Third Airport Development Project jointly funded by the bank and the European Investment Bank, he explained.

As soon as the ADB issues its concurrence, Alvarez said the Department of Transportation and Communications would immediately form a pre-qualification and bidding committee to select the project contractors.

Of the P589 million estimated project cost, P454.6 million will be used for the civil works aspect of the project, while P135.1 million will be earmarked for the purchase and installation of modern equipment and other state-of-the-art airport facilities.

Alvarez said he had already briefed Butuan City Mayor Daisy Plaza about the latest developments on the airport expansion project and how its completion would greatly benefit the city, its neighboring provinces and the whole of Mindanao as well.

"The Butuan airport expansion project is intended to benefit not only the Caraga region, but also the whole of Mindanao as this would spur economic activity," Alvarez said.

Aside from providing an improved and expanded gateway to northeastern Mindanao, the project is expected to also provide additional employment opportunities for the people of Mindanao, both during the construction period and when the airport expansion actually generates more economic activities.

PCCI backs GMA on biotech

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business group, has thrown its support to the Macapagal administration's move to open up the local market to imported biotechnology-processed plants and plant products.

PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said it was important for the government to look into emerging technologies such as biotechnology as tools in addressing the country's food security concerns.

PCCI lauded the issuance by the Department of Agriculture of Administrative Order (AO) No. 8, which outlines the regulations governing the importation and release of plants and plant products derived from modern biotechnology.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the release of the guidelines during the recent Mindanao Food Congress.

Ortiz-Luis said the responsible use of biotechnology proved to be promising in improving agricultural productivity and the incomes of farmers. The extensive use of biotech corn, soy, cotton and canola in the United States, Canada, Latin America and other countries tends to show an average increase of 20 to 30 percent in farm productivity with significantly reduced application of chemical insecticides.

PCCI vice president and former Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani called for more funding support for government agencies tasked to develop the local application of biotechnology.

Bacani said there should be increased funding support for research and development and infrastructure for biotechnology programs.

He said the United States had allocated $18 billion for biotechnology-related programs. Japan, Singapore and Thailand have provided $4.6 billion, $1 billion and $600 million, respectively, for biotechnology programs.

Bacani also stressed the need for a long-term plan that would be the basis of the government's future programs and policies on biotechnology. He warned that other developing countries like China, Thailand and Indonesia have already expanded their land resources planted to biotechnology-processed plants.

Lawmaker . . .

From page B20

The measure alters the bidding process for infrastructure and supply contracts by removing a mandatory floor price cap that is set by the bids and awards committee as a quality-control measure.

The measure sets up a distinct pre-qualification review for a project's technical bid and another pre-qualification review for financial bids.

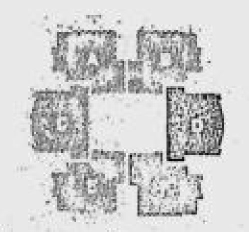
"This is beneficial to local governments because the local government code allows them individual bidding and awards procedures, but when these governments are inventoried by the Commission on Audit, the agency applies the national procurement laws to the detriment of these local governments," Campos said.

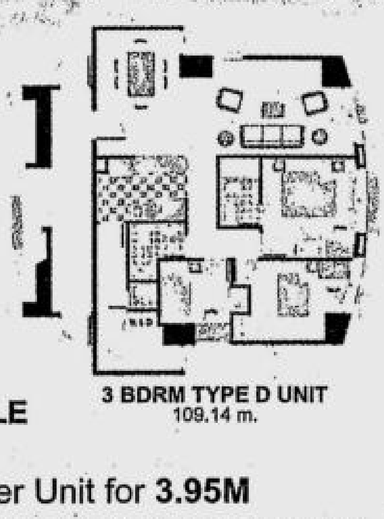
The old BAC rules, Andaya said, offered government employees "opportunities for corruption" because the practice encouraged "collusion." They provided "authorities with wide discretionary powers," were never transparent and always caused project delays, he said.

"The new measure corrects the old rules. There is no more floor price because it is not necessary to guarantee quality. The initial technical review of bids already addresses this, and the lowest bidder will already automatically assume the contract within 15 days," Campos said.

He said the reform measure would also reduce the documentary prerequisites of bidding because a study indicated that the government was only able to validate 20 percent of these pre-bid papers.

"This means the procedure has always been a *moro-moro* (a farce) because government agencies have no resources to check on these technical claims," he said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***





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G7 upbeat on growth, but bickers over trade

WASHINGTON—Anger over US trade sanctions threatened the harmony that Group of Seven finance ministers sought as they gathered on Friday, with Europe also warning their host's big trade gap could jeopardize recovery.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the G7 rich countries' club were expected to confirm their economies were on the mend following a slowdown last year.

"The economic mood is a lot better, a lot healthier today than it was the last time we met," said Canadian Finance Minster Paul Martin as he arrived for the dinner meeting.

Proceedings got underway minus British Finance Minister Gordon Brown, who was delayed by bad weather in New York.

"We want to make sure the recovery (is) well anchored and takes hold and obviously is continued," Martin said.

Washington also warns that the recovery underway in the United States and Europe cannot be taken for granted.

"There's still some risks out there so we want to be vigilant in the short run while we focus on the long run as the expansion begins," a senior Treasury official said earlier.

The G7—the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan—forged unity after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. But this appearance had been marred by unilateral sanctions that Washington slapped on steel imports in March to protect its ailing industry.

"It would be a tremendous mistake from the point of view of Europe and the United States to get themselves into a terrible paralysis of liberal trade in the world because of certain (trade) disputes," said Spain's Rodrigo Rato, the current chair of the Euro Group of finance ministers.

European Central Bank president Wim Duisenberg called the sanctions "regrettable and dangerous," and Pedro Solbes, the European Commission's most senior economic official, said retaliation was still an option.

Trade protections would not help anyone, Rato warned, and said this was an issue that could be remedied if both sides were prepared to give a little ground.

"It should be dealt with flexibly from both parts but should certainly be resolved," he told a meeting of businessmen and bankers a few hours before the G7 dinner was due to start.

Reuters

Rodriguez seeks to heal Venezuela's petroleum wounds

NEW YORK—The new head of Venezuela's powerful state oil firm, Ali Rodriguez, will have his work cut out to resolve the company's running battle with the Venezuelan government, which this month culminated in President Hugo Chavez's brief removal from power, analysts say.

A former Venezuelan oil minister, Rodriguez was confirmed late on Friday as president of Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA).

He took over after PDVSA lost a fight to break free of the government spending shackles that crippled the company's oil production power, as Chavez put Venezuela in the vanguard of Opec's efforts to hold oil prices high by curbing supply.

As current secretary general of the Opec producer cartel, Rodriguez is well-used to smoothing over divisions. He is one of few who could bridge a schism between PDVSA's growth ambitions and Chavez's efforts to pull it further under the state's wing in the world's fourth largest oil-exporting nation, analysts say.

"Over the last six weeks, PDVSA has demonstrated the muscle it has at a grass roots level," said Alejandro Bertuol, a senior director at Fitch Ratings in New York.

"The appointment is the first big signal as to the lessons for both sides. Indications are that the dissident wing has some weight and is being listened to."

Rising protests by PDVSA employees after Chavez imposed a new management team in February reflected three years of increasing frustration since the leftist firebrand leader threw out the company's aggressive plans for oil production growth.

Growing signs of Chavez's intent to tap the company's capital for social programs fueled anger among the company's executives and technocrats, turning Latin America's largest oil company into a stage for wider social divisions in Venezuela.

"PDVSA acted as a catalyst and a rallying point for the middle class," said Fitch's Bertuol.

The protests culminated this month in a military coup that installed a free-market businessman in power. But, with the nation largely polarized between white-collar Venezuelans and the poor majority, a counter-rebellion in the armed forces and massive pro-Chavez demonstrations returned the populist to the presidency.

The appointment of Rodriguez, seen as a consensus builder both in Venezuela and Opec, has eased fears of widespread government reprisals against PDVSA protesters, although the energy ministry has warned that some will be sidelined.

Yet there is unlikely to be a major policy change under Rodriguez, a former Marxist rebel and now a respected left-winger, who from the start was Chavez's oil point man. *Reuters*

US computer firm posts quarterly loss

POWAY, California—Shares of Gateway Inc. rose more than 7 percent Friday after the struggling computer maker reported a narrower quarterly loss in line with expectations on better-than-expected sales and issued a relatively upbeat forecast.

Still, Gateway sales of $992 million were half their year-ago level of $2 billion, though they surpassed expected revenues of $978 million as it sold 645,000 units in the quarter. The drop was caused by the firm's elimination of its international sales operations, store closures and the cutting of some product lines, company officials said.

Gateway, the United States' fourth largest computer maker, said it lost $126.2 million, or 39 cents a share, for the three months ending March 31. That included $99 million in special charges and compared with a loss of $502 million, or $1.56 a share, in the year-earlier period.

Excluding those charges, the company lost $61 million, or 20 cents a share, meeting expectations of analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call.

The company, which cut prices and increased marketing in the first quarter, sold 5 percent fewer computers than in the fourth quarter of 2001.

But chief financial officer Joe Burke said that was actually good news since Gateway and other computer manufactures usually saw a decline of 10 percent or more between the fourth and first quarters.

The company, based in the San Diego suburb of Poway, typically sees sales fall about 7 percent between the first and second quarters, but this year Gateway expects revenues to remain flat because of its marketing efforts, Burke said. "We're feeling very positive," he said. *AP*

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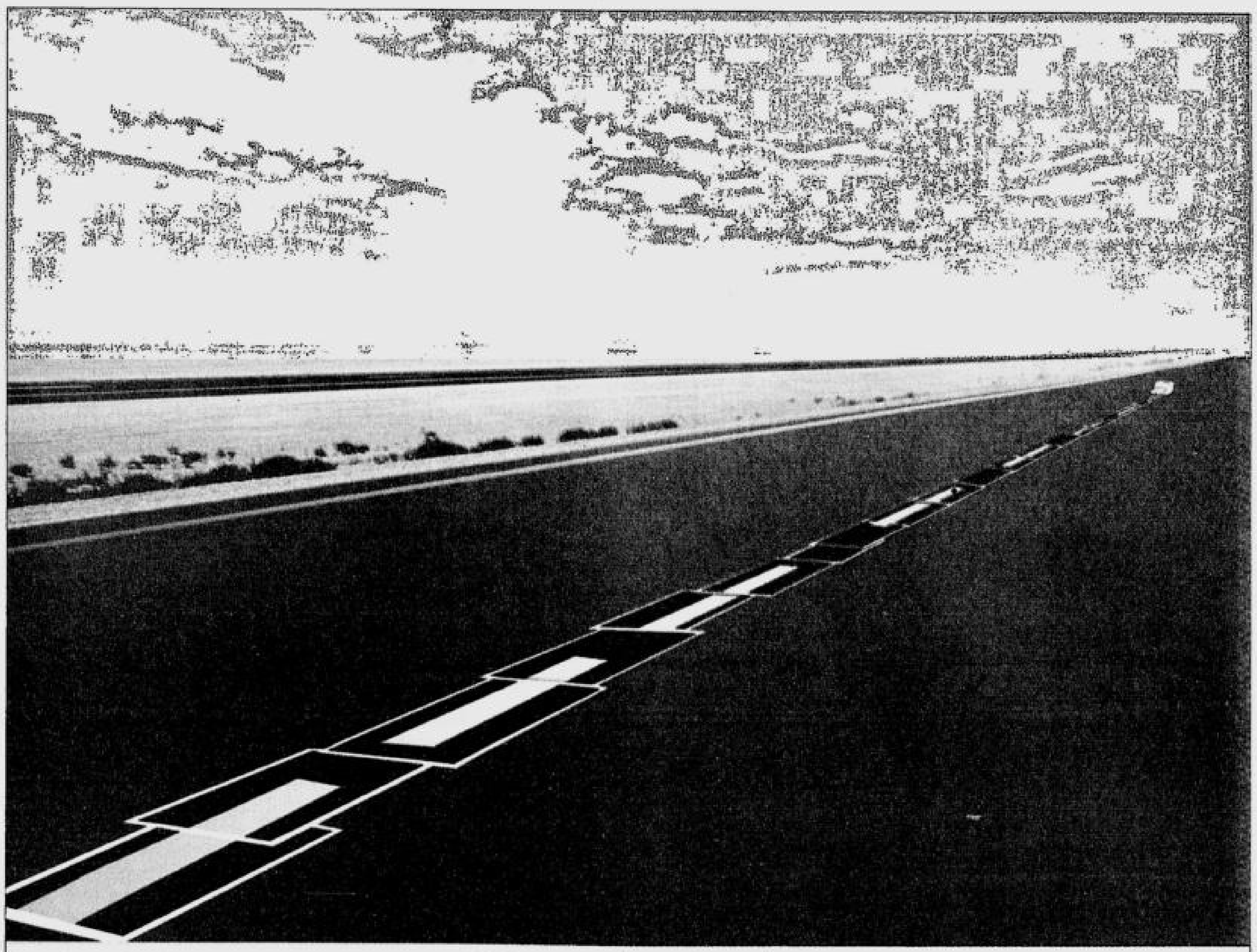
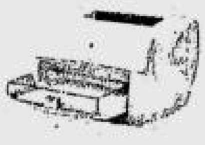
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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0597, Series of 2002.

World Bank, IMF debt relief plan not enough

WASHINGTON—World Bank and IMF policymakers meeting here this weekend are coming under pressure to boost a massive debt relief program for the world's poorest nations, which is increasingly seen as insufficient.

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, launched by the Internatioinal Monetary Fund and World Bank and "enhanced" in 1999, aims to provide some $30 billion in debt relief to 42 countries, mostly in Africa, to help them emerge from choking debt service payments.

World Bank president James Wolfensohn said Friday that he was pleased with progress in debt relief.

"I am actually quite proud of what has happened on HIPC," he said. "If you had come four years ago, there was no HIPC. We are really moving very much forward."

However, a World Bank-IMF report prepared this month said the initiative faced challenges as it tried to bring countries through the process of getting debt relief while implementing poverty reduction measures.

The report said some recipients of aid under the initiative were starting to have trouble reaching a manageable level of debt and others would take longer than anticipated to get through this process. Many of these nations hit by slumps in key commodity prices or other economic factors.

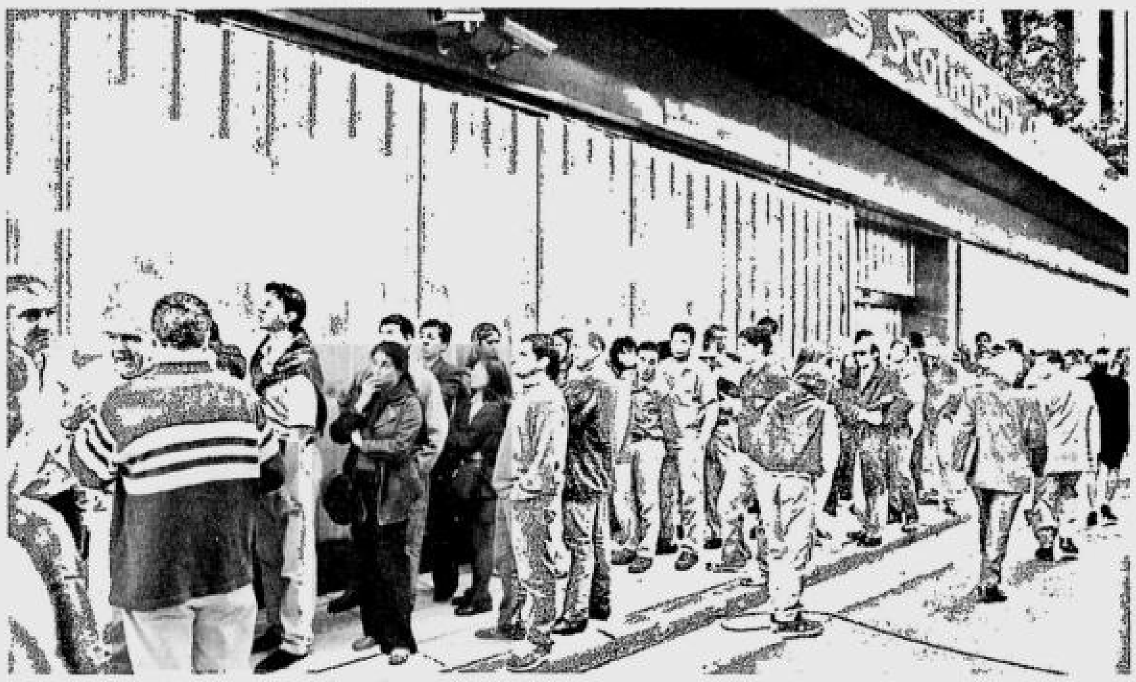
Two countries that completed the process—Uganda and Bolivia—now faced questions on whether they could sustain their debt levels, the report said.

The initiative has been sharply criticized by some activists as offering too little relief too slowly, and a new study supports that view.

A study released earlier this week by the Institute for International Economics and the Center for Global Development concluded that the initiative was not enough to help lift the neediest countries out of poverty.

"There is no way these countries can get started on a growth path without more resources," said Nancy Birdsall, co-author of the report.

AFP



PEOPLE look on as they pass a long line of Argentineans waiting in line at Scotiabank Quilmes in the financial district of Buenos Aires. Crisis-torn Argentina, while absent from the agenda, will be a topic at the IMF and World Bank meetings, with members of a 10-day IMF mission to Buenos Aires reporting back to their masters.

AFP

Argentina declares indefinite banking holiday to strengthen financial system

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—The Argentine government ordered an indefinite halt on all foreign exchange and banking transactions, saying it needed time to finalize a plan to bolster the troubled banking system.

The Central Bank announced the move Friday as President Eduardo Duhalde worked to slow a steady outflow of cash that Argentine officials said could spark a collapse of the country's financial system.

Economy Ministry officials said the banking holiday would remain in effect until Duhalde and his economic team could complete an economic program to convert most savings accounts into bonds, a plan they say would brake a growing number of lawsuits against a four-month-old banking freeze.

Long lines of Argentines seeking to pull out cash from automated teller machines immediately began forming outside many Buenos Aires banks.

For weeks, Argentine officials have been searching for ways to slow thousands of court cases challenging the banking restrictions, first imposed on Dec. 1 to prevent a run on the country's banks.

But thousands of Argentines have successfully won court orders overturning the freeze, pulling out more than $100 million a day, banking analysts say. The withdrawals have left many banks short of cash since few fresh deposits are being made.

The restrictions limit cash withdrawals to $500 a month and have triggered pot-banging protests outside many banks around the country. The near daily demonstrations have forced many banks to install metal coverings on their facades.

The drain of deposits has already forced at least one bank to close temporarily.

On Thursday, the Central Bank suspended for 30 days all operations by Scotiabank Quilmes, an Argentine unit of Canada's Bank of Nova Scotia, because of cash problems. Scotiabank Quilmes is Argentina's 11th largest bank.

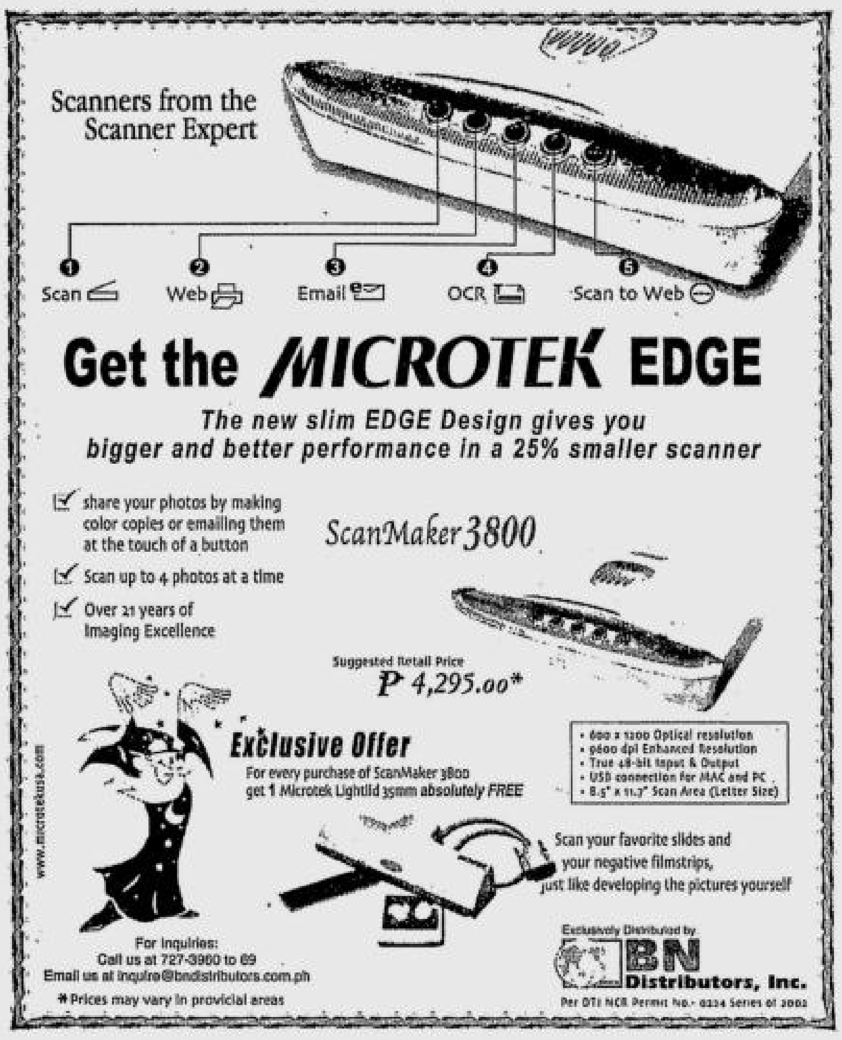
Hundreds of the bank's clientele crowded outside of its branches on Friday, wondering how they could access their money. Bank officials said customers would be able to use bank-issued credit cards and withdraw money from some accounts, but most banking operations would be suspended.

Government spokesperson Anibal Fernandez said Duhalde would soon send a bill to Congress that would further tighten depositors' access to their savings.

The plan would replace frozen bank accounts with bonds, a plan last used in 1989 when triple-digit hyperinflation gripped South America's second largest economy and the government confiscated some $3.5 billions in bank deposits.

Mired in its worst economic crisis in history, Argentina is in the grips of a four-year recession and reeling from a steep devaluation of the peso and a $141-billion debt default.

AP



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US airlines post $2.4-B loss

CHICAGO—The top eight US airlines reported another $2.4 billion in losses this week on top of 2001's record $9-billion shortfall as air travel, although rebounding, was still a shadow of its former self following the Sept. 11 attacks.

The lucrative business traveler, from which big airlines derive as much as two-thirds of their profit, is either flying less or booking cheap fares. Revenues shrank by about a quarter from year-ago levels at some big airlines, less at others.

"Revenues are way below our costs," said UAL Corp. president Rono Dutta, summing up the industry's predicament.

On Friday, UAL, parent of United, reported a $510-million net loss, while smaller America West Holdings Corp. posted a $358-million net loss and Alaska Air Group Inc. a $34-million loss.

Only Southwest Airlines Co., for the third quarter in a row, was profitable, albeit just barely at $21 million. It was the only top airline not to cut back capacity or available seat miles after the attacks on New York and Washington.

Kevin Mitchell of the Business Travel Coalition said business travel was down, unquestionably.

"They have got to lower business airfares and they can't right now," he said. "I think they were in denial and now, you're going to see different strategies emerge."

Mitchell said a recent survey showed total business expenditures in 2001 by 184 corporations fell 16.5 percent to $2.9 billion. "The falloff has not bottomed out," he added.

The American Stock Exchange's airline index is still about 14 percent below Sept. 11 levels, but some individual stocks, like Southwest, have had large run-ups in their prices.

The biggest eight carriers also flashed mixed signals about whether or not the environment was really improving.

"Things are clearly getting a lot better," said UAL Chief Financial Officer Jake Brace. "The good news is that for UAL, we see a steady improvement in our financial results on an absolute basis as well as relative to our competitors."

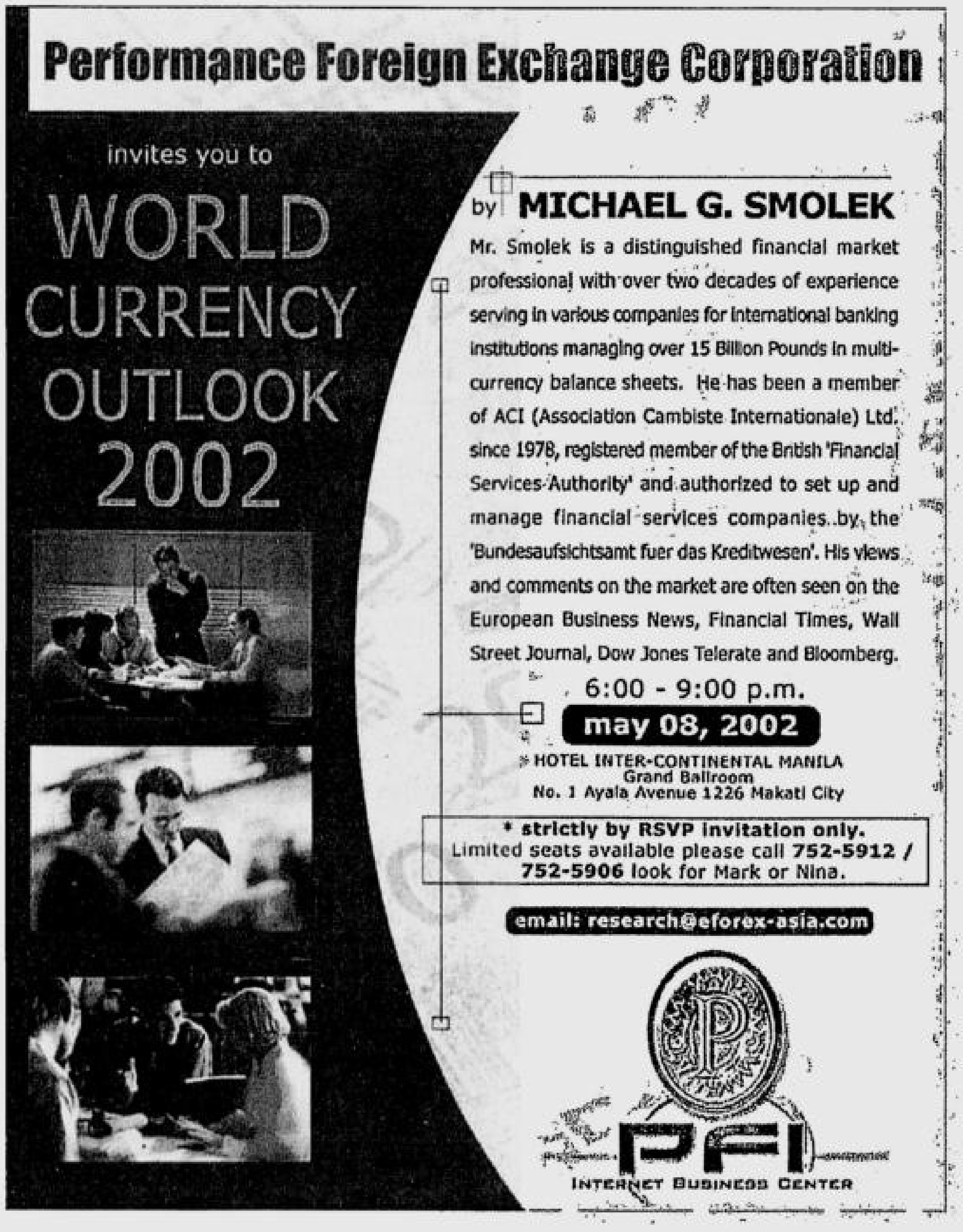
UAL projected a significant second-quarter loss, however, as did No. 3 Delta Air Inc. and AMR Corp., parent of American Airlines and the world's largest airline.

UAL's stock is 50 percent below pre-Sept. 11 levels, and the carrier has yet to resolve outstanding labor issues. It is still trying to negotiate a deal with ramp and customer service workers after narrowly avoiding a strike by mechanics in March.

Gordon Bethune, the outspoken and colorful chief executive of No. 5 Continental Airlines, backed off his earlier projections for a second-quarter profit, although he saw profitability in the second half.

Bethune derided the high-flying fortunes of newly public rival JetBlue, saying, "It just says that PT Barnum was right. Since 1978, the record pretty well shows that no start-up airline has really been successful, so the odds of JetBlue having long-term success are remote."

Reuters



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Canon to mark $1.4-B profit

TOKYO—Japan's top computer printer maker, Canon Inc., is to see its group net profit climb 6 percent to a record 178 billion yen ($1.4 billion) in the year to December, a newspaper said Saturday.

This would follow record high results for the past two years, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The Tokyo-based firm, globally known for Canon brand cameras, was expected to enjoy a 3-percent gain in sales to 2.99 trillion yen for the year, the business daily said.

The sales and profit gains were mainly due to brisk shipments of laser printers, digital cameras and digital photocopiers, it said, adding cost cuts and the weakening yen against the dollar were further boosting profits.

AFP

Times look bleak for investors

NEW YORK—The economy is rebounding from recession, but investors are bracing for a sustained period when stock prices barely move at all and other investments are unlikely to pay off as well.

That doesn't mean that there won't be rallies in certain stocks and sectors, but few money managers are expecting the major market gauges to return to their old highs anytime soon.

In fact, it could be years, something that long-time investors saw in the 1970s bear market. And prospects for any investing gains look even dimmer now than they did then, experts say.

Prices of existing bonds are likely to fall when, as expected, interest rates rise later this year.

Commodities are unattractive, money managers say, since the cost of buying them may not even match anticipated inflation.

Real estate, a recent safe haven for some investors in volatile equity markets, has no luster for money managers. Prices have risen too far, too fast in recent years making future returns less certain.

During the bleak period from 1970 to 1982, the Dow Jones industrial average had several rallies and declines and, at one point, lost almost half its value.

"There is a similarity to the (early '70s) when people also got crushed, but today the alternatives to stocks are poor," said Cummins Catherwood, a portfolio manager with Philadelphia-based Rutherford, Brown & Catherwood which oversees $750 million, and a 35-year veteran of the financial services industry.

In the 12-years ended in 1982, the Dow barely posted a 2-percent return on an annualized basis. That compares with an 8-percent annualized return on bonds, 10 percent on real estate, and 22 percent on gold bullion in the same period, according to BigTrends.com, a Kentucky-based research firm.

Then interest rates were high enough to make other investments like certificates of deposits attractive, Cummins noted. In 2002, "Interest rates may go up but money market funds pay half as much as the dividend yield on say General Electric," Catherwood said.

The lack of alternative investments is a two-edged sword for stock market investing. On the one hand, it means investors will keep money in equities, providing a cushion of sorts for the market. But it also leaves little incentive for any active stock buying.

Still, fund managers say that selective, long-term investments will pay off, especially if the economy regains its footing in the year ahead as it's expected to do.

"We buy with the expectations of never selling," said Robert Zagunis, a portfolio manager at Jensen Investment Management, which oversees $525 million. "We buy companies that are profitable in tough economic times."

Among other criteria, Zagunis seeks companies that have exhibited return on equity of 15 percent or more for 10 years. His picks include advertising and communication firm Omnicom Group Inc., and credit card company MBNA Corp. Matt Kelmon, portfolio manager with Palo Alta, California-based Kelmoore Investment Co., told Reuters there would be a few false starts before the economic recovery kicked in, and that individual names would do better than sectors. ***Reuters***

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MARK Fields, new head of Ford's luxury car division. AP

Ford's luxury car chief steps down

DETROIT—Ford Motor Co. on Friday said the head of its luxury car division was stepping down, in a possible blow to the turnaround effort it unveiled in January after last year's stunning $5.45-billion loss.

The world's second largest automaker said Wolfgang Reitzle, a former BMW executive who was considered one of the auto industry's top "car guys," was leaving the Premier Automotive Group, which designs and markets its Jaguar, Volvo, Land Rover and Aston Martin brands.

The departure was likely to be seen as a setback for Ford, which was just three months into a sweeping restructuring plan and reported its fourth straight quarterly loss on Wednesday. A major objective of the plan was to ensure that the luxury car division would expand rapidly under Reitzle's stewardship and account for a full one-third of its earnings by mid-decade.

"Wolfgang Reitzle's departure is unfortunate news, but a typical development in a restructuring company," industry analyst John Casesa of Merrill Lynch said in a research note, which added the division could be "handicapped" without him.

"We fully expect that it will remain tough sledding for Ford's management team through the balance of the year as additional defections are possible, market share likely falls further and financial results remain unsatisfactory."

Reitzle was appointed by former Ford chief executive Jacques Nasser, who created the luxury car division to accommodate him after he defected from BMW in 1999.

His departure, which capped weeks of rumors about corporate intrigue and imminent management changes at Ford, came roughly six months after Nasser's unceremonious ouster.

The industry had been rife with talk of Reitzle's possible departure ever since his former boss left.

Industry insiders said Reitzle had been lobbying to be named vice chair for global product development at Ford. He would be replaced by Mark Fields, president of Ford's Japanese affiliate, Mazda Motor Corp.

Ford chair William Clay Ford Jr., who offered Reitzle a $5-million bonus last year on the condition he remained with the company through 2005, insisted on Friday that there would be no change in Ford's luxury brand strategy.

"We are committed to our strategy for maximizing the potential of our premium brands," the great-grandson of automotive pioneer Henry Ford said in a statement. "These brands are strong and that strength stems from exceptional products and talented people, a combination that will deliver outstanding results going forward."

Ford did announce one change in strategy at the division, nonetheless. Its Lincoln and Mercury brands, which have been suffering from slowing sales, are moving back to control under Ford's North American Consumer Business unit.

Bill Ford, as the wealthy family scion prefers to be called, declined to comment when asked in a conference call with journalists whether Reitzle's decision to stay on as a consultant on product, design and marketing-related issues at Ford meant that he would retain the $5-million bonus. ***Reuters***

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LABRADOR M/F, Blk & Ylw w/papers & comp. vaccs 929-6439

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Ofc Staff 18-45yrs old w/ w/out exp Start ASAP 9134470 Mariel

CARE GIVER T5280722

MAY 25 WORKSHOP FACIAL SKINCARE 8956031 L2011 OR 8971832

★OFC STAFF 9134470ANTON★

★OFC STAFF 9134470 LUCY★

★URGNT OFFICE CLERK Col Grad/ColLevel9134470MAC★

ISMP NEEDS BSEED TEACHERS CALL 6402009 / 6420254

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Legaspi Village, Rada Street
FCC Building, 1/Floor
Three (3) Office Condos
GFA/sqm 48.88; 35.50; 46.00
Price P2.6M; P1.90M; P2.5M
Valuation/sqm. Floor Area P53,700
Land P75,000

CEBU CITY
Cebu Business Park
Cardinal Rosales Avenue
Cebu Holding Center 4/F
Office Condo 93.13 sqm Price P3.5M
Valuation/sqm. Floor Area 35,500
Warranted Leaseback for Both
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Makati: 818-2781; 751-5472
Cebu City: (032) 232-3361

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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BALLOON CAMP ASIA
532-3517
0917-8388000

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF PARAÑAQUE
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

5-A

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

	NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	Tax Declaration Numbers	Date Upon Which The Tax Became Delinquent	AMOUNT
1)	**ALMENDRAS, CARIDAD C. DE** Classification: Land Bgy. Sto. Niño TCT-S-69212	E-013-03836	1979-2001	27,565,083.58
2)	**GARCIA, NICANOR** Classification: Land Bgy. San Valley TCT-298279 Land TCT-146235	E014-03356 E014-03416	2001 1985-2001	24,160,168.92
3)	**MANTRADE INDUSTRIAL INC.** Classification: Land Bgy. Marcelo Green TCT-317408 TCT-299421 Land TCT-517407	E006-08400 E006-08408 E006-08409	1985-2001	8,950,610.00
4)	**MASANGKAY, TIMOTEA** Classification: Land Bgy. Tambo Building	E015-01736 E004-00653	1979-2001 1979-2001	6,252,444.20 64,259.12
			Sub-Total	6,316,703.32
5)	**JOBIN AQUA MARIN CORP.** Classification: Land Bgy. Sto. Niño TCT-113619 Building	E013-01583 E013-01584	1987-2001 1988-2001	1,874,360.00 449,637.30
			Sub-Total	2,323,997.30
6)	**LUZON AGGREGATES INC.** Classification: Land Bgy. Marcelo Green TCT-S-17821 Land TCT-S-23449	E006-03059 E006-03066	1998 - Nov. 2001 1998 - Nov. 2001	1,398,150.00
7)	**PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK** (TCT-105292) 7139 Classification: Land Commercial, San Dionisio (TCT-105291).7135	E010-03995 E010-03994	1987 - 2001	1,210,820.48
8)	**JORGE B. VARGAS, INC.** Classification: Land Bgy. Tambo TCT-136688, 136689 Land TCT-138686 Land TCT-13398 Land TCT-56792, 76793	E015-01344 E015-01346 E015-02012 E015-02019	1979 - 2001 1979 - 2001 1979 - 2001 1979 - 2001	904,490.72
9)	**MENDOZA, ADELAIDA R.** Classification: Land TCT-1202168 (S-91996) Barangay BF	E001-05234	1986 - 1998 2000 - Nov. 2001	681,984.46

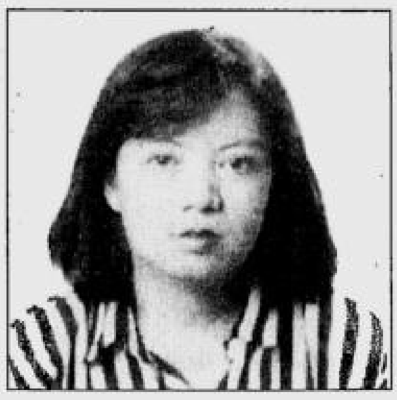
AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST OF THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

(PDI – Apr. 22 & 29, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Ana Oliva A. Eraga whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **Jardine Land, Inc.** Her employment with the Company was terminated for a cause. Any transaction entered by her in behalf of Jardine Land, Inc. starting **March 3, 2001** will not be honored by the Company.

THE MANAGEMENT

ERRATUM

In the **Notice to the Public Ad** of **Jardine Land Inc.** published in this paper April 14 and 15, 2002, effective date of termination from the Company of Ms. Ana Oliva A. Eraga was inadvertently printed as March 3, 2002 instead of **March 3, 2001**.

Our Apologies

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

1997 Volvo 850 GLE sedan/URX-943
1994 Mitsubishi Galant VR6/TRB-977
1993 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.3/THB-536
2001 Toyota Corolla XL/WPF-905
Mitsubishi/Fuso Canter Van/PPW-191

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel. #75-43-457

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Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2nd Flr. MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Rd. Balara, Q.C.
Telefax Nos. 926-5233; 926-5234

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation for qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission as the Executing Agency and the City Government of Mandaluyong as the Implementing Agency are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following linear park packages.

Contract Package	Contract No.	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description
a. Barangay Buayang Bato Linear Park (Package A)	EPA LPP-05	1,900.00 sq.m.	Barangay Buayang Bato Mandaluyong City	90 Calendar days	Linear Park and Promenade
b. Barangay Vergara Linear Park (Package B)	EPA-LPP-06	2,194.00 sq.m.	Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong City	90 Calendar Days	Linear Park and Promenade
c. Barangay Mabini J. Rizal Linear Park (Package C)	EPA LPP-07	1,588.49 sq.m.	Barangay, Mabini J. Rizal, Mandaluyong City	90 Calendar Days	Linear Park and Promenade

The works consist of three (3) separate contract packages. Bidders may bid for any one, two or all three contract packages ranked according to their preference, but award will be limited to two per bidder.

A bidder, who is already evaluated as an awardee in one (1) contract package, can only be awarded the subsequent package if his remaining financial bid capacity is equal or greater than his bid for the package, and if his bid is the lowest complying bid.

If a bidder has been evaluated as an awardee for two (2) packages, his bid for the subsequent package shall be returned unopened.

In the event that the lowest bidder is not qualified for the award due to insufficient financial bid capacity, the contract package shall be awarded to the next lowest complying bidder, at the cost of the next lowest complying bidder.

Interested contractors will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box, which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation, and the list of qualified contractors has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified contractors will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified contractors will be returned unopened.

Interested contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC)
2nd Floor Engineering Building
MWSS CMPD., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos: 433-3444/433-3446/926-5233/926-5234

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be purchased by interested contractors from the above address on 25, 29 & 30 April 2002 and 2-3 May 2002 upon submission of a letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) per contract package.

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on 10 May 2002, 10 a.m. at the Conference Room, PRRC office. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the PRRC on or before 1200 hours on 10 June 2002. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) SINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

(PDI–April 20, 21 & 22, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) would like to invite all interested contractors to apply for prequalification and if later prequalified, to bid for the project described below.

Project Title : Rehabilitation of Glass Globules (Lighting Fixtures) Support Frame and Connections at the PICC Reception Hall

Scope of Work : Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, services and other incidentals required for, (a) dismantling/rehabilitation and re-installation of lighting fixtures (glass globules); (b) hauling of dismantled glass globules to designated PICC areas; (c) cleaning of interior and exterior portions of the glass globules; (d) fabrication of Ga. 12 stainless steel (2.78 mm thk.) sleeve; (e) other necessary works to complete the work according to the approved plans and specifications of the contract.

Minimum Requirement (criteria):

a. The Contractor should have completed at least two (2) projects of similar nature or of greater complexity for the past five (5) years, each costing not less than One Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P1,600,000.00).
b. The contractor must have an accessible warehouse/workshop with minimum storage area of at least 150 sq.m.
c. The Contractor should have a net contracting capacity of at least P8,000,000.00 computed as follows: NFCC = 10 x (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) - (value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contracts yet to be started).

Prequalification documents may be obtained at a cost of two hundred pesos per set (P200.00/set) from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance is from **April 15, 2002** until **April 25, 2002**, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn. Deadline of submission of accomplished Prequalification Documents is on **April 29, 2002** / 4:00 p.m.

Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification shall be issued on **May 10, 2002** / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of Bid/ Tender Documents to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P2,000.00/set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at Tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143 (look for Ms. Amelia Pagalunan).

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 262 Series of 2000 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply to prequalification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award or any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE B. VALDEPEÑAS, JR.**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **JUAN QUINTOS, JR.**
Co-Chairman

(PDI - April 14 & 22, 2002)

POGS 1ST REGIONAL MEET

The Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society recently held its first annual regional directors meeting. The Society's thrust toward education, research and community service were discussed. The meeting was attended by president Dr. Greg Pastorfide, vice president Dr. Lyna Ruth, PRO Ditas Decena, board members Susan Nagtalon, Roger Mendiola and Rosendo Roque, and newly appointed regional directors.

QC WELCOMES ALBA RESTAURANT

Alba Restaurante Español, the landmark dining destination that has been home to generations of Spanish food lovers, recently opened its long-anticipated 2nd branch at Tomas Morato corner Scout Lozano in Quezon City. Shown is guest of honor QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte (second from left) with (from left) police Chief Superintendent Rodolfo Tor, Alba Restaurant general manager chef Miguel de Alba, Salvador Escudero, and QC Councilor Ricky del Rosario during the inauguration party. The opening was held in time for the restaurant's celebration of 50 years in the dining scene. The first Alba Restaurant was established by Don Anastacio de Alba, the country's dean of Spanish cuisine, in 1952. Since then, it has been known to serve the best traditional Spanish dishes such as Paella Valenciana, Bacalao A La Vizcaina, Callos A La Madrileña, Lengua Sevillana, and various tapas and chorizos. Alba also has a branch at Polaris Street, Makati City.

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Telephone 893-1320 loc. 5115 Fax 840-1461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC SMALL B in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT (OFF-GRID)
FOR DAKU ISLAND, MOLOCABOC, SAGAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-059

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, including the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to Daku Island, Molocaboc, Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Nas M. Corcuera) starting **April 15, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of April 30, 2002.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting May 8, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 16, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at Sagay City, Negros Occidental. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address **not later than 2:00 p.m. of May 23, 2002** then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) Ester R. Guerzon
Manager, Operations Services Division

(PDI–April 22, 2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
GARMENT MERCHANDISER

Garment buying office located in Phil. Stock Exchange Centre, seeks merchandiser to handle buying and development for major US retailers and brands, including one of the hottest and fastest growing menswear labels in the United States.

Candidate must have at least 5 years minimum experience in the industry and have a knowledge of both woven & knits cut & sew tops and bottoms.

Qualified applicants should fax their resumés to **Mrs. Luz Cruz**
Tel. Nos. 636-6662 / 637-9232 Fax Nos. 941-0669 / 637-9232

PBE spearheads celebration of Earth Day

THE CELEBRATION of Earth Day on April 22 began in the United States in the early 90s, and has since spread worldwide to bring attention to the serious environment problems of our generation, such as garbage and pollution.

In the Philippines, the Philippine Business for the Environment is inviting the public and institutions to be an active part of the solution by participating in the Earth Day Recyclabes Collection Event on April 22 at the Goldcrest Carpark in Ayala Center. Buying stations will be set up for the day by industry recyclers who will redeem five types of recyclabes for cash on the spot. These are old computers and electric equipment, used lead/car batteries, used paper and cardboard, plastic PET bottles and aluminum beverage cans.

Other co-organizers are the Ayala Center and Ayala Foundation, with sponsorship from Bayer Philippines, the Metrobank Foundation, Unilever Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, Nestle Philippines and the Earth Day Network.

All participating institutions will be acknowledged during the special closing program at which time an Earth Day Report will capture the volumes of recyclabes collected and the benefit to the environment in terms of materials diverted from the landfill and volumes of toxic substances like battery acid which were collected instead of being released to the environment.

The Recyclables Collection Event will be replicated by PBE's partners—on April 26 by the Laguna Industrial Estates and the LLDA, and on April 27 by the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Offices, schools, industries, hotels, barangays, village associations, and other establishments who wish to participate and be counted as supporters of recycling are encouraged to call the Philippine Business for the Environment at 635-3670 or 635-2650, fax 631-5714.

More value with Pancake House cash coupons

PANCAKE HOUSE has been introducing innovations in products and services to give customers value for their money. Now, everyone's all-day restaurant has added cash coupons to the many reasons for going back to Pancake House: every P500 bill in a participating outlet entitles the customer to a cash coupon of P50, which the customer can use on his or her next visit to the same outlet. The customer also has the option of collecting several cash coupons and using the accumulated amount to pay for the next meal.

The more often you go to Pancake House, the more cash coupons you can avail yourself of, and the bigger discounts you can enjoy.

The Pancake House cash coupons are being offered in recognition of the loyalty of the restaurant's strong base of returning patrons. Over the years, Pancake House has appealed to generations of customers who value its distinctive, wholesome ambience, personalized service, and delicious meals. With all these, plus more recent improvements, promos and expansions, Pancake House continues to prove there's no restaurant quite like it across the country.

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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JOSE (PEPITO) LEGARDA y ROCES

falleciò el 21 de Abril, 2002 a los 90 años
despues de recibir los santos sacramentos.

Su desconsolada esposa, **CHARITO LOBREGAT**; hijos, **MENET**, **JAIME**, **CHITO**, **MANDI** (†), **MARI**, **MARIAN**, **JOSELITO**, **ITO**, **BENNY y EDDIE**; nueras, **MARIVI**, **BETINA**, **ALDA**, **MARILEN y LITA**; yernos, **ORESTE**, **BOEDI**, **MIGUEL y ANDRE**; nietos y biznietos ruegan al piadoso lector una oración por su eterno descanso.

Estarà de cuerpo presente en la residencia de la familia—

589 MANGA AVENUE, STA. MESA, MANILA

Una misa se celebrarà a las 10:00 a.m. el Miercoles, 24 de Abril en la misma residencia. La creamacion tendrà lugar despues de la misa, acto seguido el entierro en la cripta de la iglesia de Pinaglabanan, San Juan.

... absent from the body, present with the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Beloved

Ma. Victoria Migallos Marasigan

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 20, 2002
at the age of 43
after a valiant fight with cancer

Chic's bereaved husband **Adrian (Kid)** and children **Catrinna (Cat)** and **Alphonso Apolonio (King)**; parents **Santos** and **Coleta**; parents-in-law **Apolonio** and **Araceli** (†); sisters, brothers and in-laws **Ivy and Pacifico Torres**; **Mark** and **Ma. Luisa**; **Barbara**; **Biboy** and **Grace**; **Miguel**; **Ariel** and **Mady**; **Baby** and **Indian Flor**; **Sonny** (†); **Girlie** and **Tony Chua**; **Joy** and **Sylvia**; **Jewel** (†); **Cupid** and **Jonat Banzuela**; **Jigger** and **Arlene**; **Aimee**; nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Memorial Chapels, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Masses are scheduled at 8:00 p.m. on April 22 and 23, 2002.

Interment will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Church.

The Family of

GEN. MANUEL T. PEPINO, MNSA

Who joined his Creator on February 20, 2002

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to **Former Pres. Fidel Ramos**, **Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**, **Gov. Chavit Singson**, all PNP Generals, officers and staff and to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

. From: the wife **Mrs. Emilia Pepino**, and children **Marjorie**, **Maj. Marvin**, **Marie Louie**, **Mildred**, **Manuel Jr.**, **Michelle** and **Minerva**; daughters and sons-in-law.

Burial Place: **LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI**

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

PETRA BARRIOS FERNANDEZ

of Kalibo, Aklan & Los Angeles, California

Her loving children REX & JING, LENI & CELSO, LOY, JESSIE & ERIK, VIRGIE, DANNY & NOELA, PETER & AURORA, EDWIN & SALLY, brothers and sisters PABLO & SITA, MELDA, RAMONA & NORBING, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Hackers threaten Edsamail for dropping free service

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

FOR DROPPING its free e-mail service, local e-mail service provider Edsamail Philippines Inc. has become the target of a local group of hackers behind the mass website defacement campaign called the "Four o' clock project."

The Four o' clock Project, the hackers claim, is a collaboration of individuals and independent teams of freelance hackers, system administrators, computer security enthusiasts and programmers.

Saying it is committed to encourage public awareness of secure, safe computing through information dissemination and the spread of free knowledge, the group launched last year a Web vandalism spree to demonstrate the vulnerability of networked computer systems in the country.

In a statement sent by e-mail to Edsamail's general manager Margarita Torres on April 15, the Four o' clock Project's spokesperson, Keech, issued what appeared to be a threat of an attack from them if the company pushes through with its plans to drop its free e-mail service. Yesterday, Edsamail started charging its users for its e-mail service.

"Due to the (planned) discontinuance of your free e-mail service, we have received an uproar from those who have benefited immensely from your service. With almost half a million subscribers at your disposal, we believe that three fourths of your loyal subscribers attest to your adverse change of plans," the hacker wrote.

Edsamail has about 800,000 registered subscribers, with around 200,000 to 300,000 active users in the Philippines. In Singapore, it has around 100,000 registered subscribers and around 10,000 active users.

"Because of the (uproar), Asianpride, 404 and other individuals related and unrelated to the computer underground scene have once again collaborated to restart the now dormant Four o' clock Project in protest toward your office," Keech, Asianpride member, added. "We would like to appeal to you to continue your free services with new restrictions and policies that would benefit the company and the free e-mail subscribers."

"Let me stress that we don't have any vendettas or hidden propaganda toward your office. I am confident that any statements or communications that we have exchanged will be kept in the strictest confidence," Keech said.

This same e-mail message was also sent to INQ7.net.

Coder, another team Asianpride member, also sent a message to Edsamail, telling the company not to pursue its plans to drop its free e-mail service.

"I need your help to contact Edsamail regarding charging users P350 after April 20; not to do it," Coder's e-mail read.

Edsamail is planning to charge an annual fee of P365—or P1 per day—for its paid e-mail service.

Coder also forwarded an e-mail from the head of "darkscience," another local hacker group, calling all hacker groups to pressure Edsamail to forego its paid service.

A paragraph from the e-mail reads (verbatim): "I and in behalf of the TEAMS FDN and ASIANPRIDE (except keech that will have a final verdict based to the results of 'white' and 'black' sides opinions), that I talk already about this matter we have agreed upon to have a voice about this. We are in campaign to have a 'MASS DEFACEMENT' of all PH vulnerable boxes, for this we can be heard. EDSAMAIL free service is very important for all of us those specifically in Manila and Cebu areas, that's why offering to have this big deal scheme is a holocaust for every one of us user."

For the past week, several subscribers have complained that Edsamail's e-mail service has been problematic.

Asked about it, Toto Aquino, head of Edsamail's marketing, said there were "no unusual activities except for an increase on the number of e-mail and phone calls from its subscribers inquiring where they can pay for Edsamail's e-mail service."

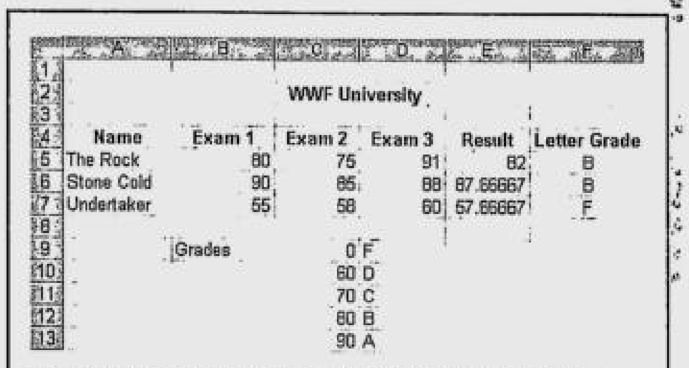
He said the company saw the letter from Asianpride, and is therefore keeping close watch on its systems.

In a statement, however, Edsamail said it was suffering from "operational and technical difficulties" the past week.

The company, however, attributed this to "thousands of Edsamail subscribers who have decided to avail of its one-time limited offer of P1 a day to continue to enjoy its service."

The company says subscribers have been lining up at the Edsamail office and other payment centers to avail of its offer of P365 a year for unlimited Internet access for e-mail.

"In line with this move of Edsamail, the customer service and technical teams have been prepared to address customer concerns and monitor the quality of service," the statement added.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2			WWF University			
3						
4	Name	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	Result	Letter Grade
5	The Rock	80	75	91	82	B
6	Stone Cold	90	85	88	87.66667	B
7	Undertaker	55	58	60	57.66667	F
8						
9		Grades	0	F		
10			60	D		
11			70	C		
12			80	B		
13			90	A		

TRY placing a letter grade equivalent in your Excel files.

Automatic grading equivalent in Excel

By Jerry Liao

IF you're a teacher or an HR officer and you need to automatically provide a letter grade equivalent to a number result, here's an easy way to do it in Microsoft Excel.

(1) Create your Exam table

e.g.: Column A = Name ; Column B = Exam1 ; Column C = Exam2 ; Column D = Exam3; Column E = Result ; Column F = Letter Grade

(2) Formula for result: =(B5+C5+D5)/3

(3) Create your letter grade table in ascending order (anywhere in your worksheet)

e.g.: 0 F / 60 D / 70 C / 80 B / 90 A [this is assuming that 0-59 is F, 60-69 is D and so on]

(4) Highlight your grade table [ex : c9-d13]

(5) Go to Insert / Name / Define and give your table a name (e.g., Grades)

(6) Position your cellpointer to column F (e.g.,F5)

(7) Type =vlookup(E5,Grades,2) then press enter explanation =vlookup(lookup_value,table_array,column_index_num)

(8) Drag result down to copy formula to other cells.

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Macapagal wants all government agencies on the Web by June

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC) to facilitate efforts to enable all Philippine government agencies (around 300 in all) to be on the Web on or before June 30. This was the verbal directive given to ITECC, the country's highest policymaking body in information and communications technology (ICT) in the Philippines, after the group's meeting with the President last week, said Virgilio Peña, presidential adviser for ICT and ITECC executive director.

"The President wants to reset our priorities and work on increasing the base of government agencies with Web presence."

Under the E-commerce Act of 2000, all government agencies are at least expected to be on the Web. But beyond offering static information online, government should be offering some of its public services on the Internet.

It also requires all government agencies to be connected to each other in a network called RPWeb, thereby facilitating future Internet-based transactions among the agencies.

Peña said he will ask the National Computer Center to help government agencies develop their websites.

The NCC has been working on initiatives to standardize government websites in the country.

INQ7.net

With computer security, you get what you pay for

By Mary Ann Davidson

WHEN it comes to security, you get what you pay for. Most consumers won't purchase a $50 electronic device without looking for an Underwriter's Laboratory sticker, yet they purchase software at a thousand times the price that they use for running their enterprises, with no consideration of product security mechanisms.

Everyone wants to use the Internet to securely connect partners and customers directly to their systems, but in this environment, it's not just the technical security measures that are important, it's the confidence you can place in those measures. The security equivalents of Underwriters Laboratory can establish consumer confidence in software purchases. There are standards to establish information security "assurance"—that is, validation that a product does what it claims to do in terms of security—by means of formal security evaluations.

Vendors submit their products to a third party (i.e. a government-certified laboratory), that evaluates the security claims against formal criteria such as the international Common Criteria (ISO-15408), and U.S. Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS)-140.

The Common Criteria, the de facto worldwide evaluation standard, has the added benefit of mutual recognition by many countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, France, Australia and New Zealand. Vendors complete one security evaluation that is valid in many countries. Consumers have assurance that the vendor is not blowing smoke, because it is someone other than the vendor validating security claims. (Let's face it, all vendors claim they are secure, even the ones who issue security patches for their products every two days.)

Security evaluations have three main benefits:

(1) A more secure product. Evaluators find security vulnerabilities, which must be fixed as a condition of completing the evaluation.

(2) A secure development process. Security evaluations include a review of product security architecture, functional, design, and test specifications, and they ensure that the secure development process is repeatable.

(3) A culture of security. Completing a security evaluation—or many of them, year after year—changes the corporate culture. Security becomes part of the corporate DNA, wired into the fabric of the organization. Security evaluations require a substantial (and expensive) long-term commitment by a vendor to build and maintain secure software. They are so important that the US government requires security evaluations for all systems involved in national security (an added benefit: if a product is secure enough for the National Security Agency, it ought to be secure enough for anybody).

Consumers can check vendors' security evaluations by referring to the certification bodies' websites, such as:

(1)http://www.cesg.gov.uk/assurance/iacs/itsec/cpl/index.asp

(2)http://csrc.nist.gov/cryptval/140-1/140val-all.htm

(3) http://www.radium.ncsc.mil/tpep/epl/

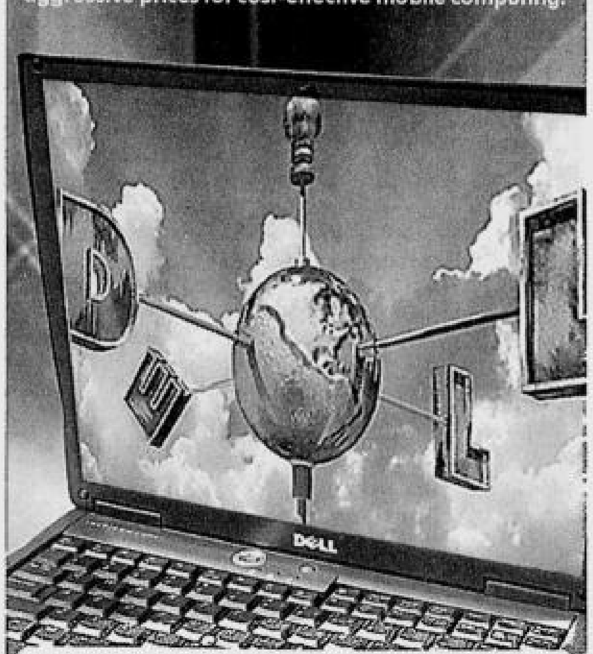
Even though security evaluations are important, not all products are evaluated. What else can consumers of information technology do to ensure that the systems they purchase are secure?

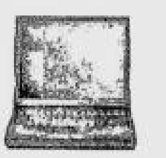
One option is checking the vendor's track record on security vulnerabilities (bugs). There are many security vulnerability reporting entities (such as Carnegie-Mellon's Computer Emergency Response Team [CERT], or the hacker forum of choice, BUGTRAQ on securityfocus.com). Every product has bugs; some of those are security bugs. However, a vendor who issues security patches on a daily basis is cause for alarm: it indicates that the vendor uses customers as their quality control organization. For these vendors, security is an afterthought, which means they consider their customers' security to be an afterthought, too.

Customers must factor into their purchasing price the cost of applying security patches to production systems to make them acceptably secure. If there are too many patches issued too frequently, it's not merely the expense of patching 'n' systems times 'm' patches, it's the likelihood that an organization will miss a patch, and its systems will be compromised. Last year's spate of viruses—SirCam, Code Red, Nimda—exploited unpatched security vulnerabilities to the tune of $13 billion in damages. When you factor in security holes, the lowest purchase price isn't necessarily the lowest cost solution.

Security is too important to be an afterthought. Consumers simply must make secu-

WITH/ B19





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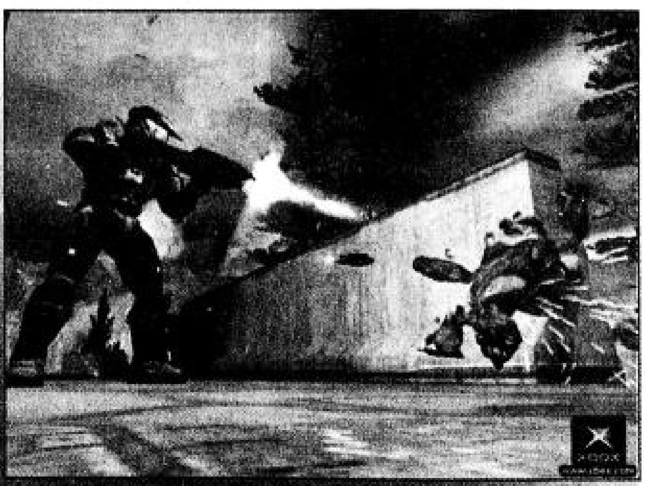

Halo: Combat evolved, combat solved

By Jerry Liao

"AND the proud winner of an Xbox is . . ."

Well, you guessed it right, my name was called. That's how I got my Xbox console, winning it at the Microsoft Christmas party. It arrived late January and the console came with three games: DOA3, OddWorld and Halo.

- Like many others, I started playing with DOA3. Little did I know that a more exciting game was awaiting for me: Halo.

So I inserted the DVD. I created a new character, gave it a name, chose my controller settings and started the game.

Halo puts you in the role of a cyborg super-soldier known only as Master Chief. Aboard the spaceship called Pillar of Autumn, you escape an alien force known as The Covenant and try to lead them away from Earth. At first, you will only be armed with a pistol, and as the game progresses, you will come across different weapons which you can select and carry with you. The game allows you to carry only two weapons at a time, which seems to be boring at first, but this adds more challenge and realism into the game because you have to carefully select which weapon to use for which opponent.

Aside from the pistol, you will be presented with an assault rifle, sniper rifle, shotgun and rocket launcher. You can also use Covenant weapons during your campaign, like the plasma pistol, plasma rifle and the needler. Each has a unique rate of fire, ammo capacity and damage potential.

On my first mission, I encountered a handful of basic enemy types like the small, annoying Grunts, force-field wearing Elites, shield carrying Jackals, terrifying Hunters and cloaking Elites each with different personalities and tactics. On the other hand, I am provided with allies everywhere that help me fend off the enemies. The comments of both your opponents and allies add humor to this first-person shooter game.

The second mission starts with the Master Chief crash landing on the planet. This is where the true beauty of the game is revealed. More enemies will be presented, some on the ground and some piloting their hovercraft called Ghosts and their flying vehicles called Banshees.

You will also be presented with your own vehicle like the Warthog— an all purpose 4WD that can carry a driver, a gunner, a passenger and is armed with an anti-aircraft gun. There's also the Scorpion, a giant tank packing a mortar launcher and a coaxial machine gun.

Each level presents a different kind of intensity and new grounds to unravel that will keep you glued on your screen wanting to know what will happen next. The story is intriguing and has many plot twists. It took me a week to reach the Maw—Halo's final mission. The objective here is to blow up the tube which will destroy your enemies' base and you will be given six minutes to escape using the Warthog.

Each weapon, creature, marine and civilian has a distinct sound effect; whether it be the rapid firing of a weapon or a screaming marine who just got hit. The music kicks in during an intense battle and really gets your heart going. Placing you in a realistic firefight with all the accompanying sounds, the story and the goals are relayed to you through Cortana—the ship's AI program who plays the role of your guide throughout the game. This alone

HALO/ B19

This game has pulse-pounding combat action and brain-blowing visuals which earned it the "Game of the Year" award. Microsoft even recently threw a Halo party in San Francisco after the game sold more than a million copies in record time

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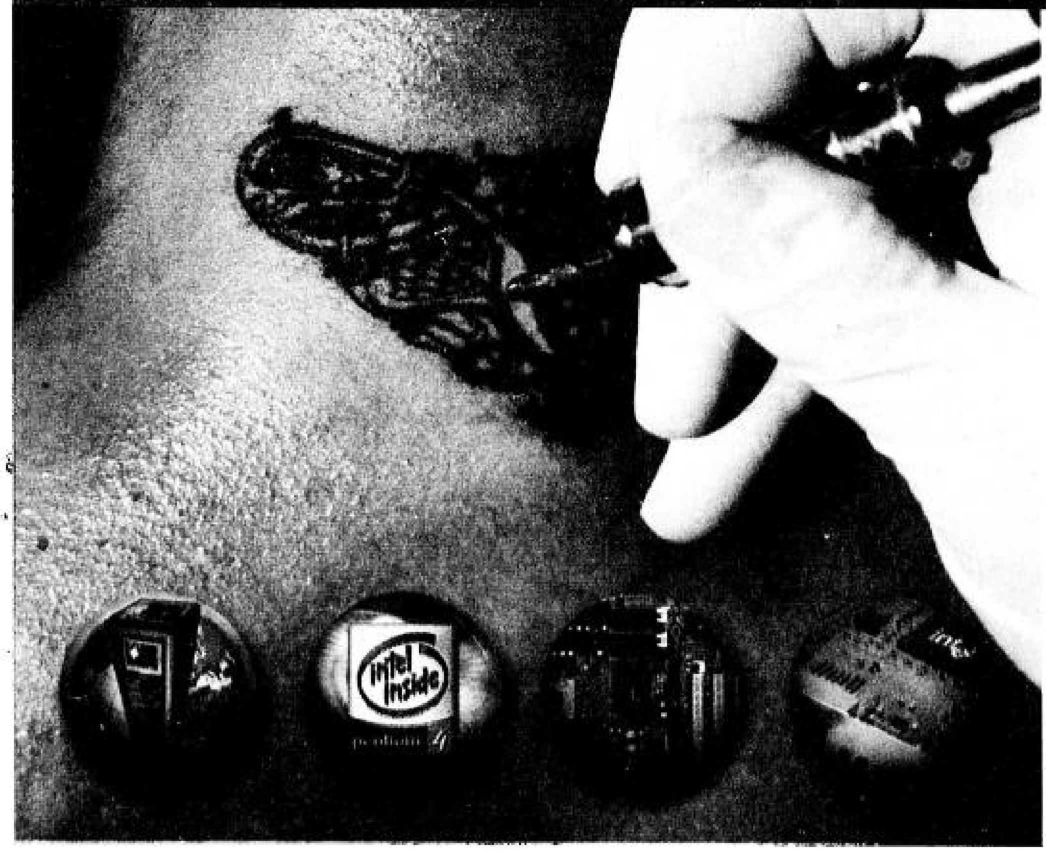

Newsflash: Halo 2 won't be titled 'Halo-Halo'

By Leo Magno

BEFORE I say something about the Xbox again, let me start off by repeating that I will not buy another Xbox game again until prices reach a reasonable level. I already have 12 Xbox titles, and that should be enough until pirated—I mean cheaper, (ahem)—copies come out.

Let me also state that I already have a a Nintendo GameCube, which means you can stop complaining about me blabbering about Xbox all the time here in Infotech. I'll review my first GameCube game here soon. But this week, let's talk about Halo.

I beat this game in three nights, or a total of about 15 hours. When you take it as a single experience, Halo is a beautiful game. The audio is marvelous, starting from the Gregorian chant-sounding and haunting opening theme to the fast, military-like marching theme throughout the game. The dialogues of the characters are also hilarious—from your buddy human marines ("Hey! I'm on your side!") to the alien Grunts ("More enemy!"). The video is equally stunning. The explosions are great, and there's nothing like shooting down a Banshee and watching it crash down in one fantastic explosion (hell yeah!).

So Halo is great.

But when you take it from a general gaming perspective, you might say that it's overrated. The building interiors are repetitive, you're guided all throughout the game and when you remember that Halo is just a shoot-em-up, you begin to wonder why everyone is going ape about it. And oh yeah, the dang game hung on me three times during "343 Guilty Spark."

But then again, Halo was declared "Game of the Year" and has sold more than a million copies, so who could argue with success?

Can't wait to see Unreal 2 which is supposed to dethrone Halo, or Halo 2 which should have better AI features and maximize the Xbox's raw power. And no, it is not true that Halo 2 will be called "Halo-Halo."

A look at the market of the future

By Joel D. Pinaroc

IN LAYMAN'S terms, going to the "market" on a "market day" always meant going to a specific place to buy and replenish supplies. It meant going after bargains amid a throng of people doing the same thing.

To most, it also meant getting in the middle of laissez-faire where people engage in a frenzied search for items that they need or fancy—haggling, even arguing, to find the best products at the lowest cost.

The term "market" was even corrupted and used—mostly by politicians—in describing unrest or chaos. A politician was once caught describing our airport as having a "market atmosphere," which is not at all funny. The concept of market even becomes derogatory if someone brands a person as somebody who frequents the market.

In IT terms however, the term takes on a totally different meaning that is still based loosely on the original concept of "market." A marketplace in IT reckoning is still a place where companies or individuals engage in a buy-and-sell frenzy. It is still a physical concept where goods are traded and exchanged.

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With the advent of the Internet however, the word market or marketplace takes on the ultimate technology twist as it now becomes "virtual." The physical characteristics of the marketplace suddenly become insignificant, such that time and geographical barriers become non-existent.

A generous sprinkling of technology from techno wunderkinds now allows people to get into this virtual marketplace to view, compare, buy or sell or bid almost any item from airplanes to paper clips, and books to beer.

The virtual marketplace is expected to replace actual, physical marketplaces because of one, main underlying reason. According to experts, the "cost" becomes now the most important reason why companies should go into a virtual marketplace.

Having a website and an online catalogue could describe a simple online marketplace. A virtual marketplace is however more complex as it allows companies and individuals to trade, exchange, inquire and even pay online supplies with each other.

A virtual marketplace thus takes the more techno-savvy tag of being an "online exchange." The cost-savings are really astounding, if the projections of exchanges are to be believed. From simple transportation to actual delivery, companies are said to get cost-savings since delivery delays, physical inventories and time dedicated to going into a physical location are minimized or totally eliminated.

Currently, most exchanges deal with company-to-company deals or what is called business-to-business (B2B) transactions. Company A, for instance, can log-on to the exchange and search for a company or companies which have the supplies it needs. An online bidding usually takes place to allow Company A to determine which among Company B, C or D, offers more value at a lower price.

In the future, in the Philippines at least, exchanges are expected to cater to the needs of consumers, in business-to-consumer (B2C) transactions. The country might be trudging, unlike other countries that are literally sprinting toward technology, but we will get there eventually.

Like in the traditional market, we will soon haggle and argue in this virtual marketplace to our hearts' content. And if exchanges can prove that going online really does cost less than going to the "real" market, the uptake for these exchanges will surely rise.

THRILL-O-METER
Halo

9	**Gameplay**—a mixture of the storyline and the creativity of the game
8	**Playability**—the control of the game and how its components form a logical whole
10	**Video**—a mixture of the graphics, rendering, animated movements, cutaway scenes and movies found in the game
10	**Audio**—the background music, voice characterization, sound effects and how they enhance the mood of the game
9	**Replay value**—is this a game you can and would want to play over and over again?
9	**Ooomph**—that certain X-factor which makes you wanna own the game
9.1	**TOTAL**

Halo: Combat . . .

From page B18

makes this a game of intense concentration, because you have to listen carefuly to the instructions or you might miss something important.

The enemies actually react to your fighting. They each think differently and they use strategies such as dodging, diving for cover, running and getting back-up or try to outmaneuver you. This level of AI gives Halo a nice challenging feel and keeps you on your toes as to what may happen next.

The word "Awesome" may not be enough to describe the mind-blowing graphics Halo provides. You simply can't miss the scenery and explosions that are so realistic. This game has seamless motion and is so rich in color. It's well-polished and well-detailed.

The left thumbstick is for moving left and right and advancing forward and moving back. The right thumbstick is for turning left and right and looking up and down. The right trigger allows you to fire your weapon, and the left trigger will throw a grenade. You can also duck by pressing in on the left thumbstick, and you can zoom in using appropriate weapons by pressing in on the right thumbstick.

Halo allows you to have of up to 16 players playing simultaneously. The only downside of this feature is four players get to play using one screen which makes the game less exciting due to its limited view. You have to connect four consoles via Ethernet with four players for each console.

I also tried playing other Xbox games like Genma Onimusha, WWF Raw, Wreckless, New Legends and more, but not one comes close to the excitement and thrilling experience Halo provides. It's one of the best games I've ever played. A game full of action with a beautiful story. I must say Microsoft got a gold mine in acquiring Bungie just for Halo alone.

With computer . . .

From page B17

rity a purchasing criterion, because it's impossible to bolt on security that is not built into a product, just as it is impossible to put a lock on a door made of cheap plywood and expect it to keep out intruders who can just kick down the door. How a vendor builds security is more important than what the vendor builds, and it is only by knowing the "how"—for example, through formal evaluations—that you can be sure that the "what" was done correctly.

The author is the chief security officer at Oracle Corp. She is responsible for Oracle product security, corporate infrastructure security and security policies, as well as security evaluations, assessments and incident handling.

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BUSINESS

Taiwan slaps 45% duty on RP cement

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAIWAN'S Ministry of Finance has jumped the gun on the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry, slapping a 45-percent duty on Philippine cement for the next five years.

An industry source reported that Taiwan reached the decision last week, less than nine months since that breakaway Chinese province's cement producers, led by Taiwan Cement Corp. of billionaire Jeffrey Koo, complained that imports from the Philippines were hurting their operations.

Taiwan's finance ministry ruled as early as October last year that imports from the Philippines—specifically from Alsons Cement Corp., Apo Cement Corp., Rizal Cement Co. and Solid Cement Corp. of the Philippines—were causing injury to Taiwan's cement industry.

The ministry, however, withheld a final recommendation, as it decided to further review the issue.

In contrast, a similar plea by the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp., under the grip of the "Big Three" cement makers—Lafarge-Blue Circle, Holcim and Cemex—was rejected by the Tariff Commission last month.

The commission reversed the trade department's findings that the local industry was drowning in red ink because of cement imports.

The Big Three had previously trained their guns on Taiwan Cement, which it blamed for the barrage of cement imports into the country beginning in 1998.

After Taiwan Cement was forced to relinquish its Manila silo to Cemex's Apo Cement last year, however, cement imports from Indonesia and Japan immediately filled in the gap, further boosting the share of imports in the domestic market.

Taiwan Cement said Cemex led the assault on its home market by unloading cement at $18 per metric ton, or P40 per 40-kilogram bag, which severely threatened the viability of Taiwan's cement industry.

Taiwan agreed to cease its shipments to the Philippines in exchange for Cemex's agreement to stop its bombardment of Taiwan with cheap cement.

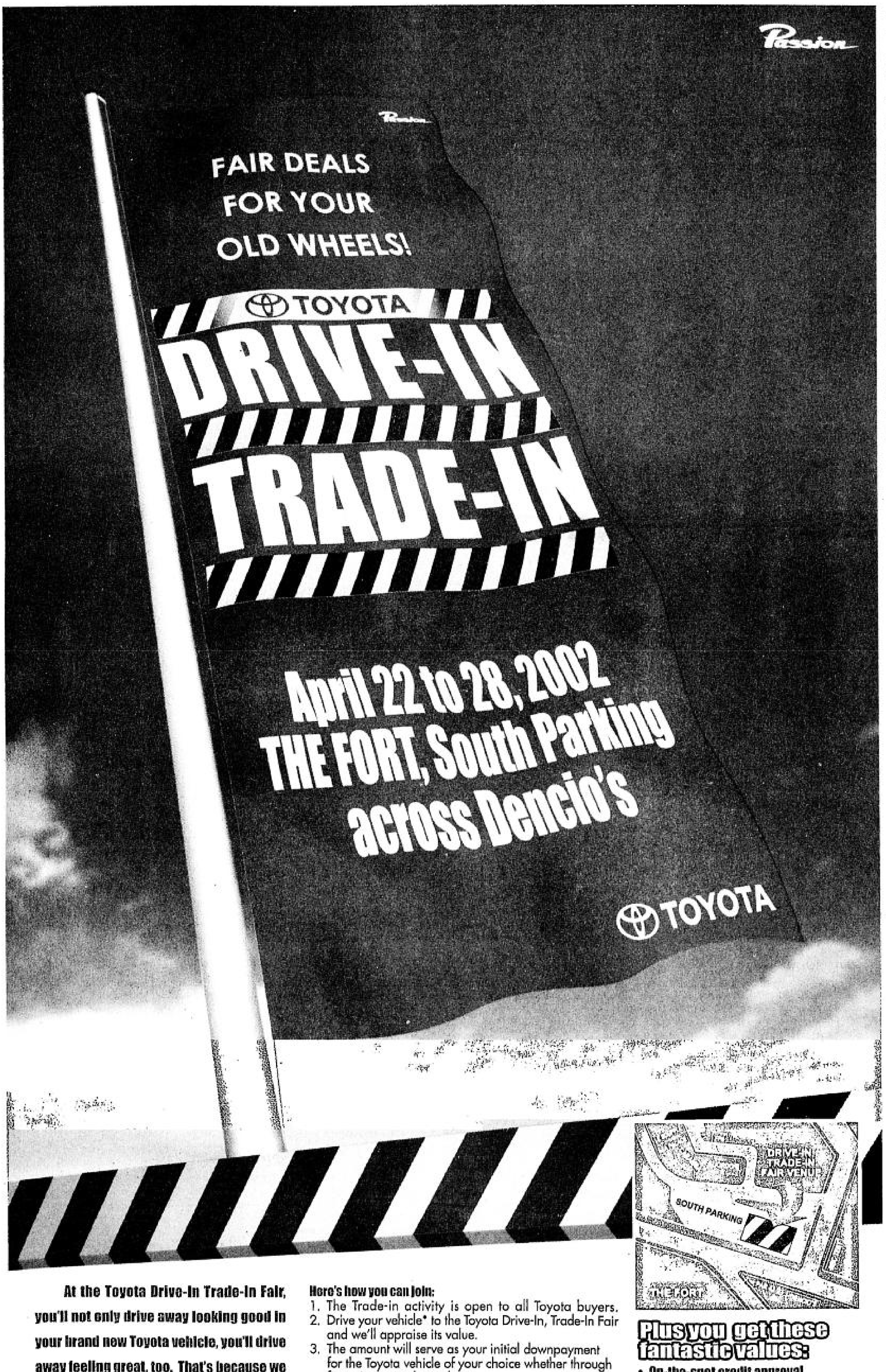
Despite suffering a stinging setback from the Tariff Commission and getting a negative opinion from the Department of Justice, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II remained a staunch backer of Philcemcor's craving for tariff protection against cement imports, as he vowed to push for a hike in cement duties at the Cabinet level.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo said she supported the DTI's position, considering the harm inflicted by the dumped imports on the local cement manufacturing industry.

Roxas earlier said the trade department would continue to push for a "managed solution"—high tariffs to repel dumped imports and a firm commitment by manufacturers to keep prices within P125 and P135 per bag—in lieu of a free market response to address the cement industry's problem.

He claimed that consumers hardly benefited from a free market, as cement prices had been soaring since January 2000.

Earlier reports said Taiwan might impose up to 127 percent anti-dumping tariffs on cement products from South Korea and the Philippines in the next two months.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Pacific Nickel seeks clearance to extract high-grade ore

By Christine A. Gaylican

PACIFIC Nickel Philippines Inc. and Hinatuan Mining Corp. have filed a mineral production sharing agreement before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to extract high-grade nickel ore in Surigao del Norte.

In its feasibility plan, Pacific Nickel said it would hire Hinatuan Mining to extract high-grade nickel ore from a site in Nonoc island, Surigao del Norte.

Pacific Nickel is preparing for the resumption of the Nonoc mining refinery operations of one of its subsidiaries, Philnico Processing Corp. Ore extracted by Hinatuan Mining will be refined by Philnico.

Hinatuan Mining is seen shelling out some P84 million in initial capital to meet Philnico's requirements.

With its existing sales contract with Pacific Metal Co. of Japan, Hinatuan Mining will be given the option to directly ship an average of 138,700 dry metric tons of low-iron nickel ore to Japan.

But since Pacific Nickel owns the site, the mining activity will be at no cost to the company.

"Under the operating agreement, Pacific Nickel would even receive 5 percent of sales for the delivery of the low-iron nickel ore to the Japan-based company," Bureau of Mines and Geosciences division head Leo Jasareno told the INQUIRER.

The bureau is currently reviewing Pacific Nickel's and Hinatuan Mining's feasibility plan.

The open pit mining operation is programmed to produce a combined daily average of 3,600 wet metric tons of nickel ore for the next three years.

Lawmaker seeks support for new procurement bill

BAGUIO CITY—Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya linked up on Friday with a group of state budget officers here to push a procurement reform measure that can cut government spending by half and clip a staggering P21 billion in anticipated losses to corruption for this year alone.

Andaya, chair of the House committee on appropriations, admitted that the procurement reform bill would encounter stiff opposition from politicians because it would change rules on public bids and awards procedures in contracting civil works or purchasing government supplies.

He said current state procurement practices accounted for the Top 3 sources of government corruption.

"This measure is more important than the Charter change (debates in Congress). We have been wasting time discussing Charter change when bills (of this nature) can solve half of our problems with corruption," he told a meeting of the Philippine Association for Government Budget Administrators, Inc. here.

Jose Edgardo Campos, Andaya's consultant and a director of the Department of Budget and Management, said the Macapagal administration was expecting to spend P82 billion this year on supplies and contracts, while local governments should spend about P22 billion.

By using existing bidding practices, the "potential leakage to corruption" would hit roughly P21 billion this year, Campos said.

Andaya asked Pagba to support the bill—a companion measure of the electronic procurement policy of Malacañang—as well as of Executive Order 40, which applied procurement reforms at the national level.

The reform measure would be taken up for committee work next week and might be scheduled for floor deliberations in another two weeks, he said.

The proposed measure, which is co-sponsored by House Speaker Jose de Venecia and three other lawmakers, provides for a single bids and awards procedure for all government units.

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Raise kids to employ, not to be employed

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOST Chinese-Filipino parents raise their children to be good in business. They believe that their children should grow to be independent and rely on their own wits to get ahead in life.

On the other hand, Filipino parents tell their children to do well in school so that they could land a job in a big corporation, even if it is only as clerk in a multinational company like Unilever or Procter & Gamble.

In short, Chinese-Filipinos want to be employers while Filipinos are content to be employees.

This is just one of the basic differences that have created a chasm between ethnic Filipinos and Filipinos of Chinese descent, along with religious differences, language barriers and the simple differences in skin color and facial features.

The four-year-old Chinese Filipino Business Club Inc. wants to eradicate the differences.

The Club was set up in 1998 to, among others, foster greater cooperation between Filipinos and Chinese-Filipinos. These efforts cover improving the peace and order situation, trade cooperation, and labor and management.

Former club president Dante Y. Go said the club's individual members are committed to narrowing the cultural and psychological gaps between the Chinese-Filipinos and ethnic Filipinos, saying that it is high time that both groups work together for the development of the Philippines.

"Many do not realize that many of the Chinese families who are in business now have been here for generations. It is not like we are going to do business here and swear allegiance to Beijing or mainland China. The fact is we are all Filipinos even if we are of Chinese descent," Go explains.

Go also tries to dispute the common perception that the Chinese control the Philippine economy. He says yes, there are the taipans who have big conglomerates, but adds that most of the Chinese families in the Philippines actually operate small- and medium-scale industries like

RAISE/ C4

Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day

Asia gropes for fairer share of economic pie

TOKYO—Asia's spectacular progress in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of absolute poverty is stuttering, forcing governments to rethink objections to Western-style welfare and seek new ways of helping the poor.

Faced with spreading protests from those left behind in its headlong rush for growth, China is experimenting feverishly with social protection systems.

Even Singapore, which has long rejected the notion of a welfare state, is debating the need for a safety net of sorts to catch those workers cast adrift by a fast-changing job market.

The impulse is not just to cement political stability. Some development economists and lobby groups say growth suffers, too, if the gap between rich and poor grows too wide.

"Research suggests that high levels of inequality not only slow the rate of poverty reduction, but also restrict the rate of economic growth," British charity Oxfam said in a recent report.

Citing work by the United Nations Development Program, Oxfam said that where extreme inequality is a major cause of poverty, it restricts investment, undermines the development of markets and hampers innovation.

"This suggests that redistribution may offer a double benefit for poverty reduction, by increasing both poor people's share of the economic cake, and the size of the cake itself," Oxfam said.

Pace of poverty reduction slows

Mainly by embracing globalization, Asia has made much greater strides than Latin America and Africa in reducing poverty.

But the World Bank said 820 million East Asians were still living on less than $2 a day in 2001, including 560 million in China and 180 million in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, where poverty rates surged after the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

With poverty rates only slowly falling back to pre-crisis levels, the World Bank said recent political stabilization in these Southeast Asian countries could not be taken for granted. Public impatience and expectations were running high.

"New governments therefore need to prove their mettle by using their more consolidated authority to deliver economic improvements in reasonably prompt order," the World Bank said in its latest East Asia Update released last week.

But faster growth does not guarantee poverty reduction.

Although China's growth rate is officially estimated to have remained above 7 percent throughout the 1990s, the poverty reduction rate slowed substantially. It fell by 20 percentage points between 1990 and 1996 but by only a further seven points between 1996 and 2001, according to the World Bank report.

The reason? Widening income gaps between town and country and between provinces.

Deepak Bhatashali of the World Bank's Beijing office said the pace of poverty reduction through growth was likely to keep slowing, necessitating greater use of anti-poverty programs to address China's numerous and complex equality divides.

"Which of these actually result in a dynamic that causes a social explosion or a political problem? That's the tricky issue," he said.

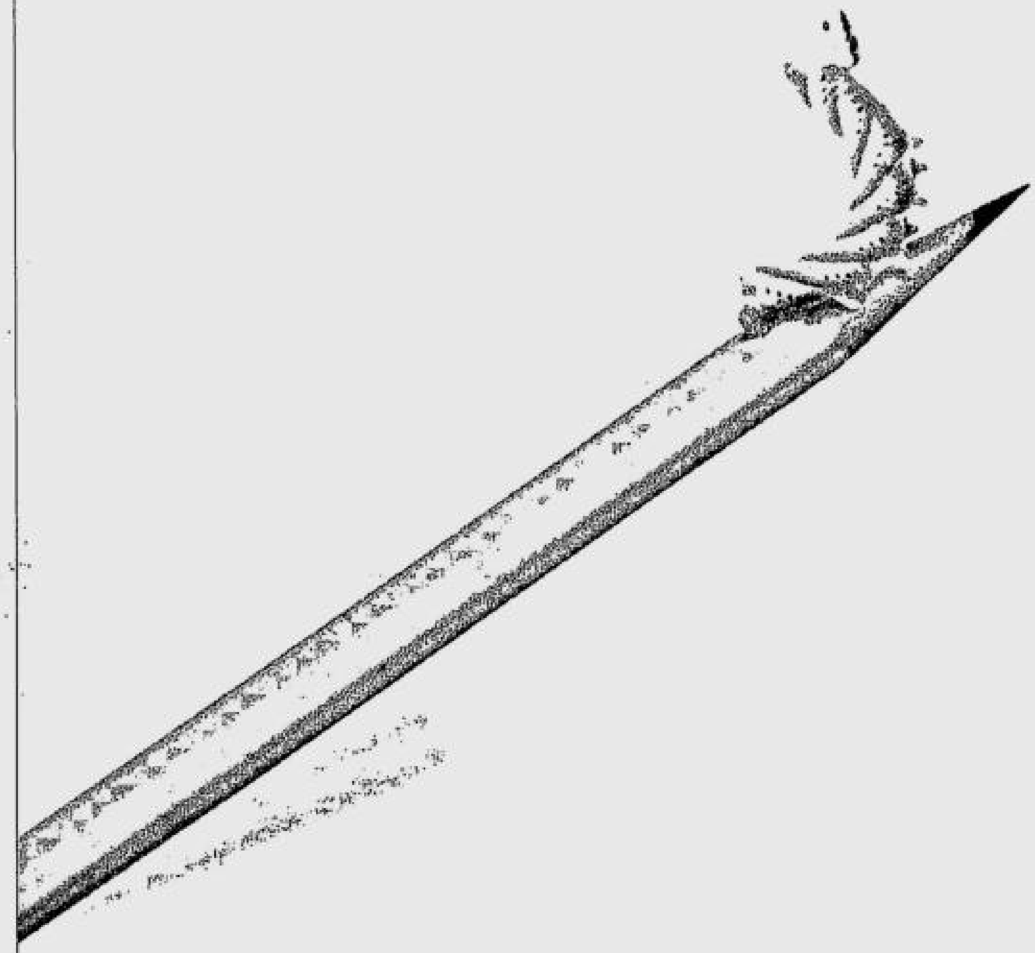
Economists at Lehman Brothers said per capita incomes in China's towns have ballooned to almost three times those in the countryside—a divide that could grow further as China's membership of the World Trade Organization hurts the agricultural sector by boosting cheaper farm imports.

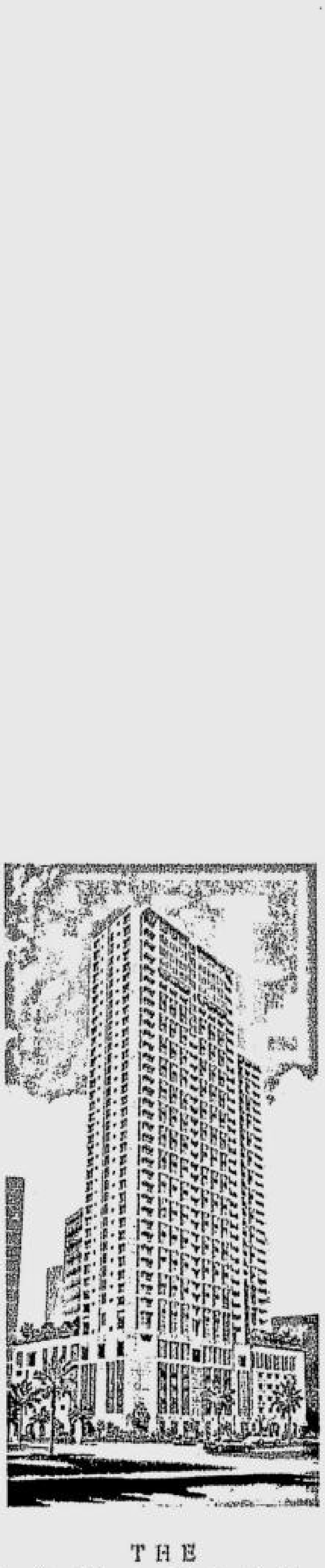
But they said Beijing was well aware of the resulting social strains and had promised to make their alleviation a priority.

"We doubt that social imbalances will pose a serious threat to the political status quo," economists Rob Subbaraman and John Llewellyn said in a note for clients.

Bhatashali said that while social pressures were unavoidable, the government was moving quickly, given its budget constraints to experiment with different pension and insurance models, and to improve access to education and healthcare.

ASIA/ C4





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From connectivity to browser-server transactions

MAPping THE FUTURE

Manuel Alcuaz Jr.

THE INTERNET has brought about many dramatic changes in the way we communicate, access information and do business.

Prior to the Internet there were different kingdoms of computer communication. With appropriate phone lines, satellite, or radio links and network hardware computers using IBM's SNA communications protocol could talk to each other.

Minicomputers using Digital Equipment's DECnet protocol could talk to each other. Computers using UNIX could talk to each other using TCP/IP.

However, it was difficult for DEC minicomputers to communicate with UNIX computers, or for UNIX computers to communicate with IBM mainframes.

Companies found it difficult to use computers from different vendors and then get them to work together.

If communication between computers within a company was difficult; computer communication with business partners was very frustrating. There was a critical need for a standard worldwide communication protocol that would make it possible to link computer networks.

Growth of the Internet

Computer vendors, software houses, and consultants got together to come up with such a standard. They worked with the international standards organization to define an open system interconnection protocol (ISO/OSI).

After several years, a very large and complex specification was defined. Unfortunately no one could program and debug the whole specification.

The computer community then took a practical decision; they adopted TCP/IP and abandoned the ISO/OSI dream and their existing proprietary protocols.

The cost of computer networking dropped dramatically since companies no longer had to build their own networks. By working through ISPs (Internet service providers) they could send files and e-mail messages within cities and across cities, within countries and across countries at a very low cost.

The Internet through ISPs also enabled millions of individuals on PCs to inexpensively participate in computer communications to do e-mail and file transfers.

The World Wide Web

The next stage in the growth of the Internet was brought about by the invention of the World Wide Web. Using HTML it became possible to store information and to present very attractive Web pages on inexpensive browsers.

Web pages on any Web server anywhere in the world could be easily accessed and viewed through browsers on PCs from anywhere in the world.

Extensions to the Web functionality eventually made it possible to do transaction processing between browsers and Web servers. These functions made e-commerce a reality. Anyone with Internet connectivity can browse Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com etc. for books, records, etc. And with a major credit card order and pay for goods that he wants.

Centralization

Because of the success of the B to C, e-commerce companies have switched their information system architectures from distributed client/server to the centralized browser-server model in transacting business with millions of customers around the world.

MIS managers love the Internet-based browser-server model because of:

Ability to lower communication costs

Ease of deployment—no software to install on remote browsers.

Ease of maintenance—all changes made on server software instantly reflects on browsers.

The browser-Web server model is a highly centralized architecture very similar to the dumb terminal—mainframe architecture of the '60s.

For a business with few transactions at each branch, this model provides significant savings in data communications, deployment, and administration.

The browser-Web server model is ideal for B to C (business to consumer) applications where thousands or millions of prospects and customers shop once in a while.

However, when used in an intra or inter company transaction processing application where each browser workstation has to handle hundreds of transactions a day, the disadvantages of the centralized browser-Web server model become apparent.

The main disadvantage was that the data communications savings do not materialize. Since all the processing happens on the server, the server becomes a bottleneck and requires much greater computing power.

In a high transaction environment, the browsers have to be connected to the server all the time. If you are using an ISP you will have to pay a lot for a dedicated port. You may find that you need to build your own data communications network with leased lines, satellite and radio links, etc.

Hardware and software license costs will increase as you build up the server's computing power to cope with the transaction load.

Other problem of today's browser-server Internet model include:

- The inability to manipulate, annotate, or add value to information on the browser.
- Web pages are a picture of the data not the data itself.
- The browser is just a graphical version of the dumb terminal.
- Interaction is limited. The user initiates interaction by entering a URL or simple data, clicking on a link or box.
- Every time you need to do something you need to send another request to the server.
- There is little intelligent client side processing.
- All processing is done at the server.
- While browsers can access millions of websites, each website is an isolated island.
- Servers cannot communicate and work together.
- Clients cannot communicate directly.

In the future, businesses will need applications to enable them to:

- Become more agile.
- Make integration with customers and partners easier.
- Empower employees to make better decisions.

Clearly, today's centralized browser-Web server model will not be able to meet these future needs. What is needed is a new paradigm. Distributed application on the Internet. Microsoft's .NET platform has been developed to enable the paradigm shift.

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. and member of the board of trustees of De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Governance matters

By Grace Vera-Cruz
Contributor

PROBABLY one of the most overused terms in government circles nowadays is good governance. To most people it is a validation of what is direly needed to turn things and restore stability in the economy and re-establish respect, decency and sanity to our political system.

The country's movers and shakers summon good governance in all kinds of policy discourses. It seems to be a master's key that fits in everyone's boxes of solutions.

On the other hand, some suggest that good governance is too lame a term to describe the cancer that has progressively eaten away at our moral fiber as a nation and laments about the increasing exuberance on the use of the term.

It is to be remembered that President Macapagal-Arroyo declared good governance as the foundation of her commitment to eradicate poverty within the decade.

It is the cornerstone of her pledges to the nation during her inauguration at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 20, 2001—high moral standards, new brand of politics that features sincere consultation with various sectors of society and leadership by example.

These, she said, would serve as the guiding principles of her administration.

Although good governance is not a panacea to the country's woes, the widely accepted fact is that the lack of it is the core of the problem. But why, and what is it exactly? Is the current administration exhibiting good governance?

The country's top academicians shed light on the subject.

Former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao who now serves as the director of the Institute of Corporate Affairs for Asia (ICD) and the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) underscores the importance of having a clear understanding of what governance means for it to effectively serve as a screening factor in looking at how well the government is doing.

ICD and ISA are private initiatives promoting the practice of good governance in the East Asian region.

In an article published by the ISA, Estanislao defined good governance as "the use and exercise of public authority only for the public welfare and common good." This definition puts it in the opposite of corruption, the use of power for personal gain.

Good governance, he said, is simply good government. It is primarily the responsibility of the government. But slowly, the so-called civil society, the business sector and private individuals are starting to realize that they have roles to play in revving up a community where good governance thrives.

The core principles of governance can easily be remembered, says Estanislao because these can be pieced together as f.i.e.s.t.a, the country's traditional celebration of the feasts of patron saints. These are fairness, integrity, effectiveness, solidarity, transparency and accountability.

Estanislao states that "fairness is giving everyone what is due them; integrity is consistency in word and deed, conviction and action, faith and life; effectiveness stands for getting concrete results; solidarity reflects the nation's team spirit; transparency ensures that transactions are in accordance with rules and accountability puts responsibility on the shoulders of those upon whom trust have been invested."

Far from f.i.e.s.t.a

The state of the country's governance is, unfortunately, no reason to celebrate. The country's episodes in Edsa to oust first a dictator, and second a president hounded by allegations of corruption and incompetence manifest the dawning of the ideals of governance in the national consciousness. Nonetheless, issues of corruption, petty and grand, continue to impede our development. In the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) alone, rough estimates indicate that the government loses 50 centavos out of every peso in collectible taxes annually.

Trillions of pesos, which are supposed to have contributed to our development as a nation, are being enjoyed by corrupt officials who live in grand mansions, dine in posh restaurants abroad and drive luxury cars.

Indeed, countless reforms have to be instituted before the state of governance brings us the festive word f.i.e.s.t.a. But asked whether the current administration is going in the right direction in pushing for governance reforms, Estanislao said "yes."

In broad strokes, the government is enhancing people participation and accountability. Government promises are beginning to be time-bound and specific.

Dr. Ramon Clarete, professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, declare that there are several critical initiatives in procurement reform and revenue generation currently spearheaded by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the Department of Finance (DOF).

Clarete also said that the passage of the anti-money laundering law and the increasing number of cases of successful police operations in combating drug trafficking also show the government's efforts in pushing for good governance.

The DBM is currently instituting procurement reforms that will increase transparency in public bidding procedures. The budget and specific projects of congressmen are mounted in the DBM website to encourage public monitoring of these projects.

The BIR, on the other hand, has come up with a transformation initiative that aims to reinvent the graft-ridden agency into one that is customer focused, trustworthy and efficient.

The bureau created a transformation management office that will carry out the task of laying the foundation of a "tax system that has the elements of simplicity, enhancement of voluntary compliance, broad tax base, transparency, equitableness, and efficiency, and adaptability to contemporary Filipino social values and culture."

For Dr. Ponciano Intal, head of the Angelo King Institute of the De La Salle University, the good news for governance matters is "the government seems bent to make the agriculture department deliver."

To be truly festive

There are many hurdles that need to be overcome before good governance truly thrives in the government. Naturally government has to lead the way.

For instance, for Dr. Jose Tabbada, professor at the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), said instituting governance reforms is almost impossible unless the case of former President Estrada is settled and President Macapagal-Arroyo does away with wooing the Estrada constituency.

Dr. Victor Abola, senior economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), on the other hand, specifically scored the snail's pace of "important trials."

He said that unless political will is exhibited by our current leaders in terms of settling "very important trials," the prospects of improving the state of governance in the country will remain dim. For instance, he said there are important tax cases that are not visibly being pursued amidst a lackluster revenue generation.

All is not lost however.

Estanislao, Clarete, Intal, Tabbada and Abola agreed that the involvement of civil society and the private sector in governance affairs is increasingly becoming robust. There has been responsible participation of the public in terms of monitoring and increasing government's accountability.

An example of which is the Philippine Governance Forum's initiative called G-watch. G-Watch monitors the quality and delivery of infrastructure projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). This kind of initiative is critical in eradicating an ingrained system of corruption in the country.

Many efforts such as the G-Watch have been on the rise. Some of these initiatives are led by unsung heroes who continue to do their part in nation building, never despairing about the hardships and even the perils that they may encounter, hoping that someday, *banderitas* will be draped across the archipelago declaring to the whole world that f.i.e.s.t.a thrives in government management of the country's affairs.

(Grace Vera-Cruz is with "Walang Ku-Corrupt!", a social marketing campaign pushing for good governance and citizenship run by volunteers from the academe, studentry, media, Congress, and NGOs. Grace is also the president of the University of the Philippines School of Economics Student Council.)

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Allow your people to think of better ways to do things

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the qualities that mark a good manager is his ability to encourage and inspire people to go for greater heights. Sybase Philippines Inc. president Delfin T. Hallare Jr. has this quality in abundance.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Oracle Philippines chief executive Bernard Yu, Express Telecommunications Inc. head Benny Quiblat, Raymund del Val of Hewlett-Packard, George Yulo of Global Brands, David de Leon of I-Vantage and SAP's Tony Javier are just some of the people who worked with him during his long career in the information technology sector.

Hallare believes that he had a hand in the development of these top players in the telecommunications industry because he encouraged them to think on their feet, without too much interference from management.

"I am very open. I give a lot of leeway to what the people suggest. I encourage them to think of better ways to do things. I believe this is the best kind of environment to nurture creativity and to keep good ideas coming," Hallare tells Business Monday.

He says his philosophy in management works well with staff who have the talent and the tenacity to reach for their goals.

For those who have difficulty holding up their part of the bargain, Hallare says he takes the time to personally tell them to look for another job.

"I believe it is fair to tell people about their chances to go up the ladder, so that they can start a career elsewhere. I tell them that maybe it is better for them in the long run to work somewhere else. Getting rid of people is hard but a necessary part of the job as chief executive," Hallare explains.

HALLARE has worked with people who eventually became CEOs.

He also believes that it is his duty as president and general manager to clearly lay out the vision for the company to the staff, and he does this by including the staff in the development of the corporate strategy for the year.

"What is more important is visioning because all the key managers should be aware of where the company should go. If we are clear in that vision in the first place, all decisions will be made towards that direction, even un-

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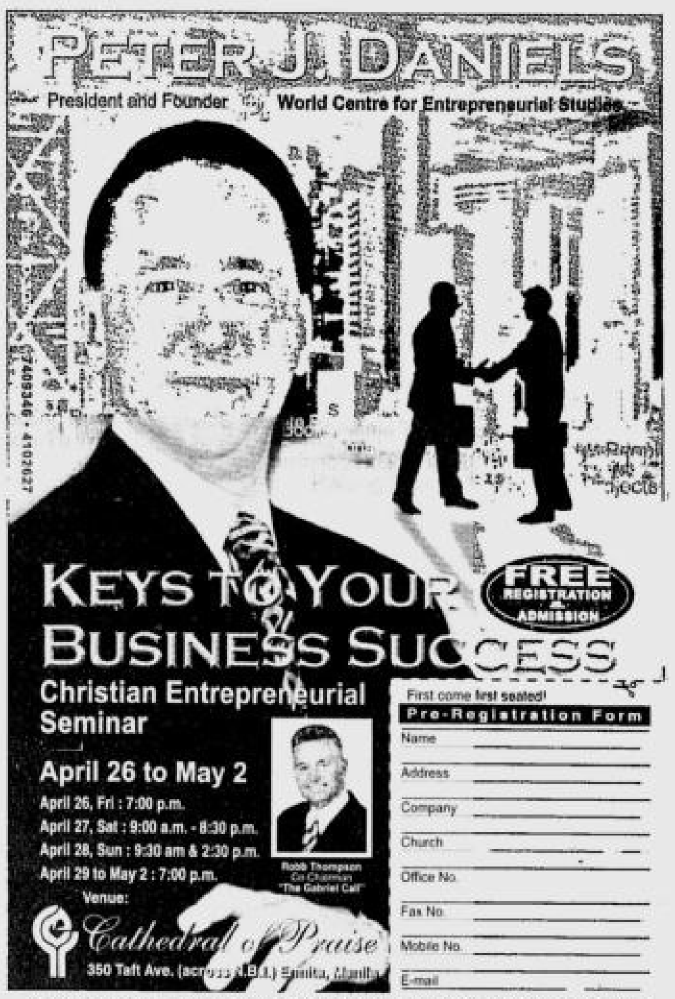

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Websites let small firms enter world of currency speculating

NEW YORK—Talk about falling trade barriers.

Speculating on foreign currencies used to be the privilege of giant banks and wealthy financiers like George Soros, who famously made $1 billion in a week betting against the British pound.

Now, it is within reach of the small-time private investor. Websites have unlocked the world's 24-hour currency markets to anyone with a few thousand dollars—a far cry from the million-dollar minimum trades required by the big banks.

But financial experts say retail currency trading isn't a good idea for mom and pop. Besides attracting fraudsters, speculating can devastate the finances of an inexperienced investor.

"I advise most people to steer clear," said Bryan Lee, a financial planner in Plano, Texas. "If you play a good game of blackjack, your odds are better."

Currency trading has followed the same trajectory as stock trading, albeit more slowly. In 1973, when gold-backed currencies were dropped for floating exchange rates, big banks handled trades via telephone.

In the mid-1990s, the system opened slightly, with banks creating electronic trading networks like FX Connect, which still catered to corporate clients trading money in massive lots.

"As an individual, if you had $10,000 and wanted to trade foreign exchange you couldn't do it," said Samantha Roady, marketing vice president at GAIN Capital, one of a handful of online trading ventures that cater to small investors. "You either got turned away as a nuisance or you'd get a price that was so bad, it was almost impossible to make money."

The emergence in the late 1990s of currency trading Websites like GAIN, and its competitors MG Financial, Hotspot FX and Britain's CMC Group, finally dealt the little guy into the game. They offer currency in smaller lots and freewheeling margins as high as 100-1, so that a $5,000 deposit can leverage $500,000 in foreign currency.

The tools available at trading sites look and feel much like those for trading stocks at E-Trade or DLJ Direct.

But currency speculation is quite different.

The currency market is many times larger than all the US stock markets combined.

Foreign exchange activity is so prevalent—$1.5 trillion changes hands every day—that it can be imagined as a weather pattern of electronic cash flows, with major currents running between the United States and Western Europe and Japan.

Much of the money isn't bought and sold by speculators. Any company or individual that does business abroad—even for simple things like owning stock in Nokia and other foreign companies—is a party to a foreign currency trade.

Speculators bet on the economic outlook of an entire country, not a company. If a currency looks undervalued, they buy it. If it's overvalued, they sell. Variables are myriad. Profits and losses can be huge.

"There have been months when I made tons of money, and months that I've lost tons of money," said Chris Marsh, a 41-year-old Phoenix speculator who has traded currency on his home PC for three years.

Unlike stock investing, Lee and others point out that currency speculation is a zero-sum game.

"If I earn money on foreign exchange, that means someone else is losing it," said Robert Iati of the TowerGroup, a financial technology consultancy.

Problem is, most currency is traded by titanic players like Deutsche Bank, whose experienced traders prowl the markets with powerful computer models. Pit against them, financial analysts say the little guy stands little chance.

Besides that, scam artists have taken a shine to the business, setting up bogus operations that promise more than they deliver, said Daniel Nathan, deputy director of enforcement at the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

In February, the CFTC charged 19 individuals and companies with making illegal foreign exchange offers. In 11 raids in the past two years, the CFTC says it halted schemes that bilked 1,000 traders of more than $60 million.

The CFTC has issued a series of warnings to consumers, asking them to check a company's credentials with the organization or the National Futures Association before investing. ***AP***

'Create a Business' contest for UP set

THE YOUTH Affairs Committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the PJ Lhuillier Foundation recently launched the "Create a Business" contest for student groups from the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration (UPCBA).

The contest aims to encourage, inspire and jumpstart the country's youth to participate in PCCI's and PJ Lhuillier Foundation's nation-building commitment.

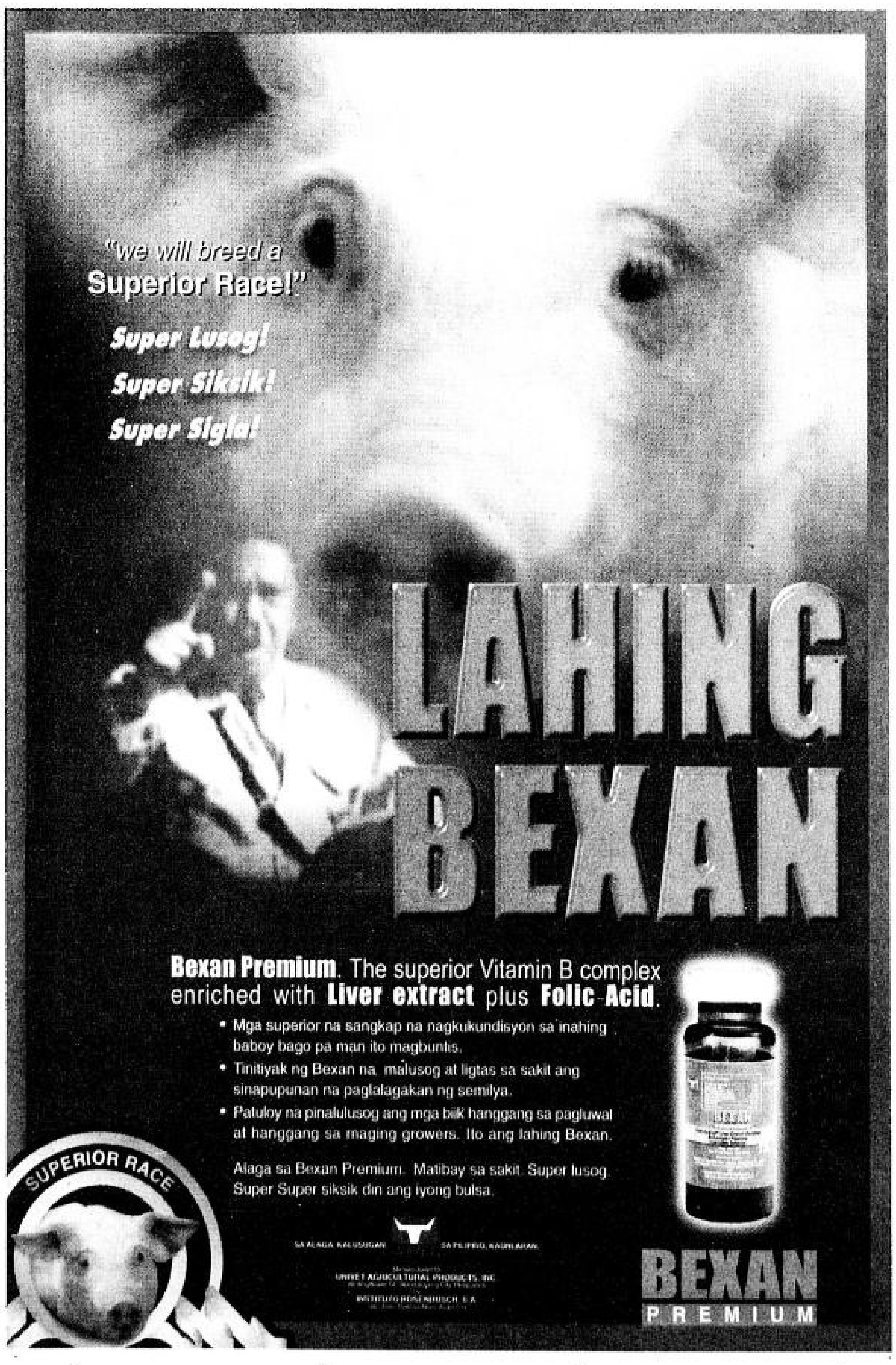
Through the contest, both PCCI and PJ Lhuillier Foundation will search for the most viable and novel entrepreneurial business proposal.

The PJ Lhuillier Foundation will provide capital to the winning business proposal up to P300,000 on an equity-sharing basis. The top five business proposals will also receive a special prize of P10,000 each while the group that makes the best oral presentation of their business proposal will be awarded P10,000.

After a rigid screening this April 2002 by a panel of judges including the UPCBA Undergraduate Program Director and the Professor of the Entrepreneurship Course, qualifying groups will present and defend their business proposals to a panel of judges to be chaired by the president of the PJ Lhuillier Foundation.

The business proposals would be judged according to their viability, novelty or uniqueness and the relevance of the industry represented by the business proposal.

Winners of the "Create a Business" contest will be presented in the awarding ceremonies to be organized by the PJ Lhuillier Foundation and the PCCI Youth Affairs Committee.



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Raise kids to employ, not be employed

From page C1

hardware shops and bakeries.

But the fact is many businesses, particularly trading, are dominated by the Chinese.

"If you go to Chinatown you will also see that there are Chinese beggars. It is not true that all Chinese are rich. Many just have small stores, or are middlemen, traders of products," Go says.

Trading has always been the business of the Chinese ever since trade started between the Philippines and China more than 5,000 years ago during the Ming Dynasty, long before Ferdinand Magellan even set foot in the country.

In those early days, Chinese traders explored the ancient trade routes through Sulu, Java and Malacca, providing a commercial gateway to Southeast Asia and beyond.

Chinese trade flourished even if the Spanish oppressed the ethnic Chinese, with many of the Chinese assimilating by marrying Filipinas and converting into Christianity. Home was Binondo, which remains the nerve center of the Chinese Filipino community.

It seems surprising now but it was only when President Macapagal-Arroyo became president that a head of state ever set foot in Chinatown.

Perhaps it is symbolic of the fact that even if the Chinoys have been recognized for their commercial contribution to the economy, they have not really been truly accepted.

Go, however, says that 2002 promises to be a major turning point in the relationship between the ethnic Filipinos and Chinese-Filipinos with the birth this year of the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day.

Slated for June 9, it commemorates the day in 1975 when diplomatic ties were established between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

It is close to June 5, a special date for the Chinese community as it was when Ms Macapagal signed Republic Act 9139 into law, providing the legal channels for local born Chinese aliens to become Filipino citizens.

The special day will be marked by the signing of a sister-cities agreement between Manila and Beijing by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Beijing Mayor Lui Qi. Club president Aw Peng Lam will lead the club members in the ceremonies.

The club is currently spearheading the restoration of the North and South Ongpin bridges. The north bridge will be named the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Bridge while the south bridge will be named Manila-Beijing Friendship Bridge.

A Filipino-Chinese Friendship Tree will also be planted in the Chinese Garden, Luneta.

So from being distrusted, and sometimes even scorned, by the native Filipinos in the early days, immensely disliked by the Spanish and tortured by the Japanese, the local ethnic Chinoys now feel that they are more vital contributors to Philippine society.

Go says many Filipino families are now encouraging their children to work for Chinese businessmen to learn more of their secrets to business success.

He says there really is nothing magical about doing well in business, as it all comes from hard work and willingness to put in the time, effort and sacrifice to build a flourishing venture over a long time, not overnight like many Filipinos.

"We are taught that the ingredients to business success are proper timing, guidance from heaven, geography or location, human relations and luck. These should work together for a venture to succeed," Go says.

Asia gropes for fairer . . .

From page C1

"They're moving very rapidly and that's one thing they've got to be given credit for," he said.

Feverish debate

China's real-life policy choices illuminate a fierce debate among development economists about the relative importance that governments should attach to promoting growth, reducing poverty and narrowing inequality.

While Oxfam is convinced rising inequality has slowed the rate of poverty reduction in East Asia, M.G. Quibria of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in Tokyo said the evidence was inconclusive.

Efforts at income and asset distribution, including land reform, might have helped but did not play a central role during the past three decades of rapid growth in Asia, Quibria said in a paper posted on the ADBI's website.

Similarly, he sees no robust link between growth and inequality, which he says is often ingrained into the structure of an economy and so changes slowly.

Botswana, the world's fastest-growing economy over the last 35 years, has a very unequal income distribution, Quibria noted in an interview. Moreover, some fast-growing Asian economies, such as Thailand and Malaysia, have remained highly inequitable.

"The process of poverty reduction in developing Asia—when the largest segment of humanity was transported out of poverty and therefore became the stuff of the Asian miracle—was not necessarily pro-poor," Quibria wrote.

Danny Quah of the London School of Economics goes further.

Given the experience of China and India, he said it was tempting to see rising inequality as a trade-off for faster growth.

India's rich-poor gap held steady in the period 1980-92, while China's widened. But Indian per capita GDP growth of 3.12 percent lagged China's growth rate of 3.58 percent.

Still, the number of Indians living on less than $2 a day fell by about 250 million, to around one-fifth of the population from about half, Quah said in a discussion paper for the Center for Economic Policy Research in London.

His conclusion? Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. "Growth is unambiguously beneficial—especially for the poor in general, and even for the poor in particular when inequality rises," Quah wrote. ***Reuters***

Allow your people to think . . .

From page C3

consciously," Hallare says.

Sybase Philippines' mission is to be dominant player in providing e-business solutions such as database management. Last year, it grew by 38 percent with P120 million worth of billings. It expects to double this figure this year.

Among its clients are Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., East-West Bank, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd. and Federal Express. Its government clients include the Land Transportation Office, Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Health.

This veteran in the IT sector sets the example for his staff by coming in early to work and putting in more than his eight hours at work, sometimes even sacrificing his weekends.

"Some people find me weird because I feel very excited when Monday comes. I find pleasure in what I'm doing. Work for me is pleasure and I cannot imagine retiring from my work, at least for now," Hallare says.

Hallare started his career in 1970 after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from De La Salle University. Procter & Gamble Phils. was his first employer.

He worked there for two years as an associate salesman before transferring to Burroughs Ltd. Philippines in 1972 where he worked for 14 years and in Burroughs Hong Kong for a year.

Hallare then moved to Unisys Phils. in 1987 as president and general manager and he improved the company's performance from $3 million in 1988 to $15 million by the time he left in Dec.1996. During that time the Philippine subsidiary was named the top subsidiary award which is the most prestigious award for Asia.

He moved to Software AG (Philippines) Inc. the following year and then to Sybase from January 1998 to present.

Hallare credits his climb up the ladder to the valuable support provided by his colleagues and his superiors. He says he always tried to pick people's brains to learn about new ideas, and now that he is general manager, he tries to share his thoughts with his colleagues.

What can PR folks do for the Philippines?

ANDERSON

GUILLEN-FELEO

MARBELLA

UYTENGSU

TO SOME it may sound maudlin, or presumptuous, but to the organizers of Philippine Public Relations Summit II, it is just right to ask this question, at this time.

In fact, they believe this a question that we ought to be asking ourselves all the time.

Within the theme "PR's One True Challenge: What Can We Do for Our Country?" Philippine Public Relations Summit II will gather practitioners in public relations, advertising, marketing, mass communication as well as businessmen and women, teachers and students to listen to views of speakers addressing this issue.

Philippine PR Summit II will be held on May 23, 2002 at the Makati Shangri-La.

The event will be produced by Virtusio Public Relations Inc. and Context Communications International Inc., with the cooperation of the Philippine Chapter, International Public Relations Association (Ipra).

"We were doing a small survey on how the Philippines is perceived by PR professionals in other countries, and the feedback we were getting—extremely unflattering—made us decide to propose this theme for this event," Romeo P. Virtusio, who created the PR Summit Series in 2000, said.

"We believe it is high time that creative people, which PR and allied professionals are, give stronger focus on the long term. It is not only the patriotic thing to do, but also the smart business move to take, for ourselves, our clients and principals, and our country," Virtusio pointed out.

The "What Can We Do for Our Country" theme will be viewed from different perspectives, by a selection of distinguished professionals.

These include Matthew Anderson, president, Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide (Asia-Pacific); Laurice Guillen-Feleo, president, Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, film director, actress; Ma. Lourdes Fernando, mayor, City of Marikina; Tere P. Filipinia, president and chief creative officer, Basic Advertising; and Steven Howard, president, Howard Marketing Services (Australia).

Also attending are Winston Marbella, president, Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP); Malou Mangahas, cofounder and director, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ); Manny Mogato, president, Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap); Renato Nieva, chair, International Public Relations Association (Ipra)-Phil. Chapter; Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, president and COO, Alaska Milk Corp.; Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas, dean, School of Economics, University of Asia and the Pacific; and Lulu M. Virtusio, president, Virtusio Public Relations Inc.

Ellis Woodward, regional vice president of Philip Morris Asia, will be the luncheon speaker.

Sponsors of Philippine PR Summit II are Philip Morris Philippines Inc., Manila Bulletin and 98.7 dzFE-FM.

Dr. Villegas will read a paper entitled, "A Strategic View of the Philippine Economy Under the Arroyo Administration."

Among the points he will develop are that the country's macroeconomic environment will remain stable, that interest rates are projected to remain relatively stable as well, and that the stable environment, coupled with reforms in the trade and investments, infrastructure and public sector governance, will lead to an acceleration in investments.

Mangahas will stress the need for journalists to strike that critical balance between responsibility to their craft and calling, on the one hand, and to society, on the other, and also pose questions on ethics.

Howard, who consults internationally with big multinationals, will present a scenario that would see the Philippines as a corporate brand.

Anderson will address the theme from the perspective of an international PR practitioner with hands-on experience in the region.

Mayor Fernando will present a case study of a community that is reshaping both the reality and the image of a small modern city.

Guillen-Feleo will give the audience an insight into the problems of the movie industry, which exerts a strong influence on the way values are created or destroyed, and on how Filipinos see themselves and are seen by others.

Uytengsu will indicate areas where the Philippines can enhance its competitiveness and offer observations as a businessman who deals with a lot of foreigners on how the Philippines may enhance the way it is recognized abroad.

Filipinia will present case studies on how advertising helps stimulate the economy, create new attitudes and advance economic development on both the macro and micro levels.

Virtusio will report on findings of a survey designed to indicate perceptions by foreign PR practitioners of the Philippines and of its chances of attracting visitors and investors.

Woodward will speak on how a major global corporation aligns itself with social causes and how it deals with crisis situations that challenge its reputation and credibility.

Filipino practitioners in PR, advertising, marketing, media and related professions have shown firm command of the creative and technical aspect of their work, versatility and ingenuity, but the question remains—what can you do for a country that continues to struggle with age-old problems and is still regarded abroad negatively?

The Philippine PR Summit Series was designed to help those directly engaged in the PR and allied professions and those who are influenced by PR present ideas that will be of broad, as against specific, or technical, interest.

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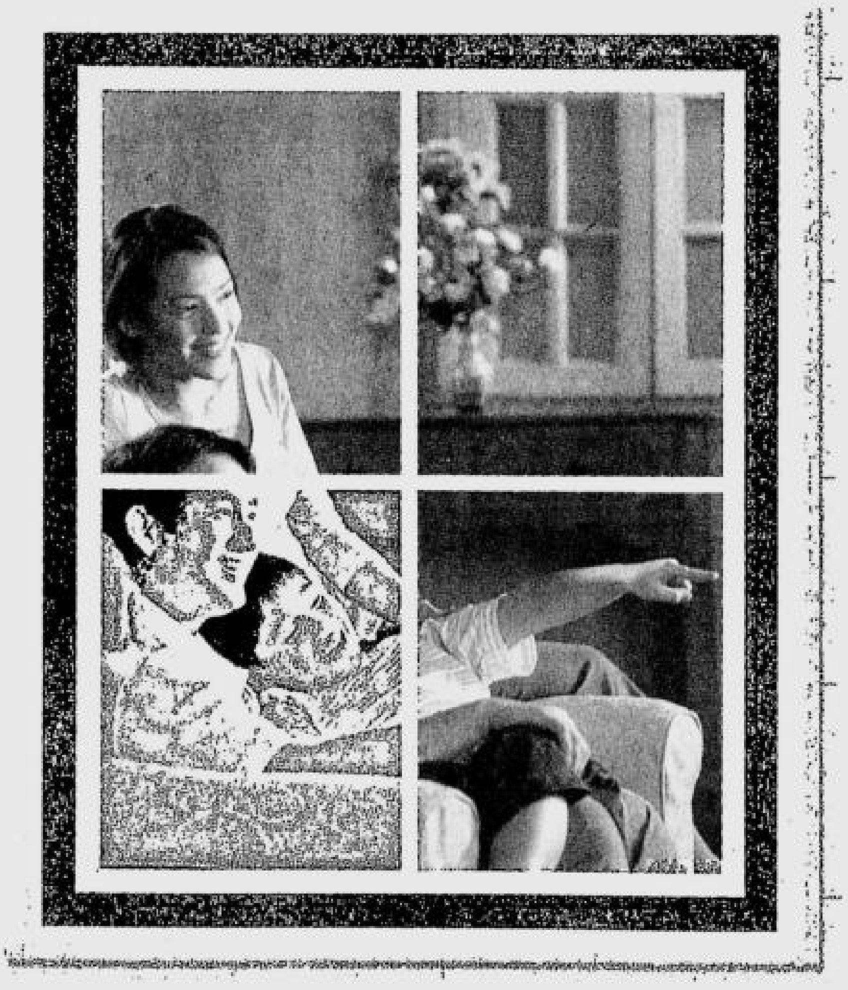

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Communicate, not just inform

THERE is a story about this small business owner whose enterprise rose to become one of the top manufacturers of ceramic tiles. There was a time when he intimately knew the people who worked for him, but as months and years went by, he observed that his close association with his employees was slowly disappearing.

As a consequence, his employees misinterpreted management's intentions and actions.

Because they were not sufficiently informed, word got around that the owner was planning to close the plant and sell all his machinery.

Although these rumors had no basis, his skilled employees thought they would be fired and began to look for other jobs. Failing to find suitable replacements, the owner was forced to close shop. The moral of the story: never underestimate the value of communication.

We have seen several other businesses and even institution's collapse. Most of us are led to believe that these businesses failed because of either lack of capital, cut throat competition, or bad business decisions.

But oftentimes, the problem lies in the loss of confidence among employees in the rank and file and in supervisory positions owing to serious failures of management in communications.

Public relations experts say that the shutting down of certain organizations and businesses stems from the deficiencies of management in communicating company policies and practices.

These experts contend that failure to inform employees about corporate policy and developments affecting employee interests leads to misunderstanding, false rumors and criticism.

If not accurately informed about these matters, employees make their own assumptions (which may be false), or listen to outside sources (which may provide inaccurate information).

What employees want to know

Basically, communication is a two-way exchange of information. A bulletin board announcement, strictly, is not "communication."

H. Frasier Moore, author of "Public Relations Principles, Cases and Problems" says: "Only when the announcement has been read, understood and acknowledged has there been communication. It is effective only when an idea gets out of one mind and into another."

By communicating with employees, management is able to correct any misunderstandings. Which leads us to ask: what do employees want to know? What are they interested in?

Moore says employees want to express to management their opinions about their work, working conditions, fringe benefits, corporate finances, promotions, and other matters affecting their work and welfare.

He says employees are interested in information about the company—its background and present organization; how its products are made and used; information about changes in methods, systems and procedures, and chances for advancement.

They are eager to know the outlook for the business and the prospects for steady work, the company's income and its profits and losses, as well as the possibilities of layoffs, he writes.

Moore says that to ensure an understanding of a company's philosophy, policies and practices, a corporation must "maintain a two-way communication program designed to inform employees and to give them a means of expressing their views about company affairs "

Lack of training, conviction

Citing an extensive survey in the US of how management and employees communicate with one another, Moore says a majority of the employees stated that by the time the company gives them information, they have already heard it from other sources, while the rest had to rely on the "grapevine."

"The principal reason employees are deprived of information about company activities, according to the findings of the survey, is that information fails to flow down from top management through the various levels of the organization to rank-and-file employees," Moore reveals.

In his book, he says he sees it as very important that management regard supervisors and department heads as communicators and that communication is an important part of their position.

One likely explanation for supervisors' ineffectiveness as spokespersons for management, Moore says, is their lack of training to communicate and their lack of conviction that management wants them to transmit information to workers.

"They may also believe that they have other work of greater importance than communicating with subordinates," he says.

Moore explains that to earn the goodwill of employees, employees should know what management is thinking and management should know what employees are thinking.

But he laments that—often, supervisors and workers often interpret a communication not in the sense intended by management, but against the background of their personal attitudes and experience.

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Global firms hasten march to India for back-office operations

BANGALORE—The next time a World Bank employee has a problem with their pay slip, chances are it will get fixed in India.

That is because the Washington-based institution moved most of its global accounting operations, including payroll processing, to Madras in south India last month.

The bank is part of a growing band of global corporations transferring back-office work such as accounting, documentation, financial claims processing and payroll processing to India, as it emerges as a key center of remote processing services.

"The resumé was impressive—huge pool of qualified English-speaking accountants, good telecoms infrastructure and also the references," said Ravinder Paul Bhatia, who heads the World Bank's Indian back-office.

"We looked at a lot of other countries but it also helped that many other corporates have set up such operations in India."

The mantra of business process outsourcing—BPO—is being embraced by companies fighting to keep costs down.

And, it is a chance for India to show it is more than just the lower-end call centers services, which formed the early wave of the business.

"India, we believe has cracked the barrier in North to the extent it is now considered mainstream for outsourcing," Warren Gallant, vice chair of global outsourcing consultants TPI Inc., said on a recent visit to Bangalore.

Research and consulting firm Gartner Inc. estimates the BPO business will be worth $234 billion globally by 2005—growing at a compounded annual growth rate of 14 percent from 2000.

"There's now an incredible demand for BPO in the Americas. The hold-up if anything is the lack of suppliers," Gallant said.

TPI is working on 50 outsourcing deals worth $10 billion, he said. Seven of those deals, worth some $2.5 billion, are for BPO and Gallant said India has a good chance to corner them.

BPO savings can have a big impact on a company's earnings as business administration can account for up to 20 percent of costs, said Ramesh Vangal, chair of start-up BPO firm Scandent Networks.

Taking off

British Airways, one of the first multinationals to set up an Indian back-office, sold a majority stake in its Bombay-based World Network Services (WNS) to private equity investor Warburg Pincus as part of a strategy to let the unit grow by servicing other customers.

"Faced with competitive pressure, British Airways set up this center to save costs but now it wants to let WNS expand, find clients in other sectors and grow on its own," said Siraj Irani, head of WNS resource management.

The 1,500-people strong WNS earns 80 percent of its revenue from British Airways, but now also services other global airlines and some insurance companies. It is looking at expanding its customer base of US and UK companies.

Analysts say this trend will blossom as firms are unlikely to keep such "non-core" facilities on their books for long and that could hasten the growth of independent BPO providers in India.

General Electric, which already has a 10,000-plus staffed BPO set-up in India, is also reportedly expanding.

Others setting up or expanding include container shipping company P&O Nedlloyd, Dutch groups ABN Amro NV and ING, Agilent Technologies, Cap Gemini Ernst & Young and American Express.

Small bite

Most BPO operations in India are proprietary facilities of foreign companies, staffed and managed by Indians.

Outsourcing to third-party Indian firms has a long way to go and local firms will only be able to nibble at the edges, unless they establish credibility, analysts said.

India's top software association, Nasscom, estimates that remote processing services in India will be worth $1.5 billion in 2001/02 and could touch $17 billion by 2008—but the bulk of this would be the work of foreign units or joint ventures.

"Back-office work requires understanding of the culture of the client," said Gartner India analyst Ravindra Datar.

"Indian companies need to showcase their disaster recovery and back-up facilities. This is necessary to tackle both physical and cyber threats," he said.

The sailing will be smoother if Indian BPO providers can find an "anchor" client or a strategic partner, rather than hunt for business on their own, said Manish Sabharwal, managing director of India Life Hewitt, a payroll and pensions services provider.

Still, the IT-enabled services sector, of which BPO is a part, is India's fastest industry growing at an estimated rate of more than 70 percent in the past year, compared to 30-percent forecast growth for the regular software services industry.

Battling an economic slowdown that has blunted their scorching growth rates, software firms like Wipro, Infosys Technologies, HCL Technologies, are eyeing BPO, bundling it with their regular software services.

"It (offshore BPO outsourcing) is not a huge wave as yet globally, but India should catch it at the beginning," said Dalip Pathak, managing director at Warburg Pincus Singapore. *Reuters*

'Ilaw@Aliw' restaged to light up rural village

AFTER last December's successful show, the musical extravaganza, "Ilaw-Aliw," was restaged recently at the Music Museum in Greenhills.

Ilaw@Aliw Part II was a project of the Information Technology Association of the Philippines (Itap) in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Manila for the benefit of the Foundation for Rural Electrification for Economic Development (FREED). Ilaw-Aliw Part II aims to raise funds for the electrification of four more barangays in Luzon and Mindanao.

The dark situation of Barangay Malabang, the target of Ilaw@Aliw Part I's fund-raising, is sadly still prevalent in 8,000 other barangays throughout the country. Students of the Malabang Public School can study only by gaslight at night. Homes regularly use candles. Water is gathered only from distant wells instead of being pumped into town and rice fields for irrigation.

In Ilaw@Aliw Part II, the star performers were Willie Nepomuceno, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, dance partner Osias Barroso, the Ballet Manila company, Robert Sena, Gigi Valmores, Gail Blanco and Zack Salazar.

Many top players in the IT industry and their colleagues and friends were present during this occasion to enjoy another stirring and entertaining repertoire of songs and laughter—and at the same time, to lend a hand to their less fortunate fellowmen through generous contributions.

Communicate

From page C6

The other part of the problem consists of workers' tendency to transmit to their supervisors only things that management wants to hear, thus giving managers a "distorted view of reality."

"Departmental rivalry may make interdepartmental communications difficult. Communications frequently are misinterpreted, thereby creating suspicion and hostility," Moore says.

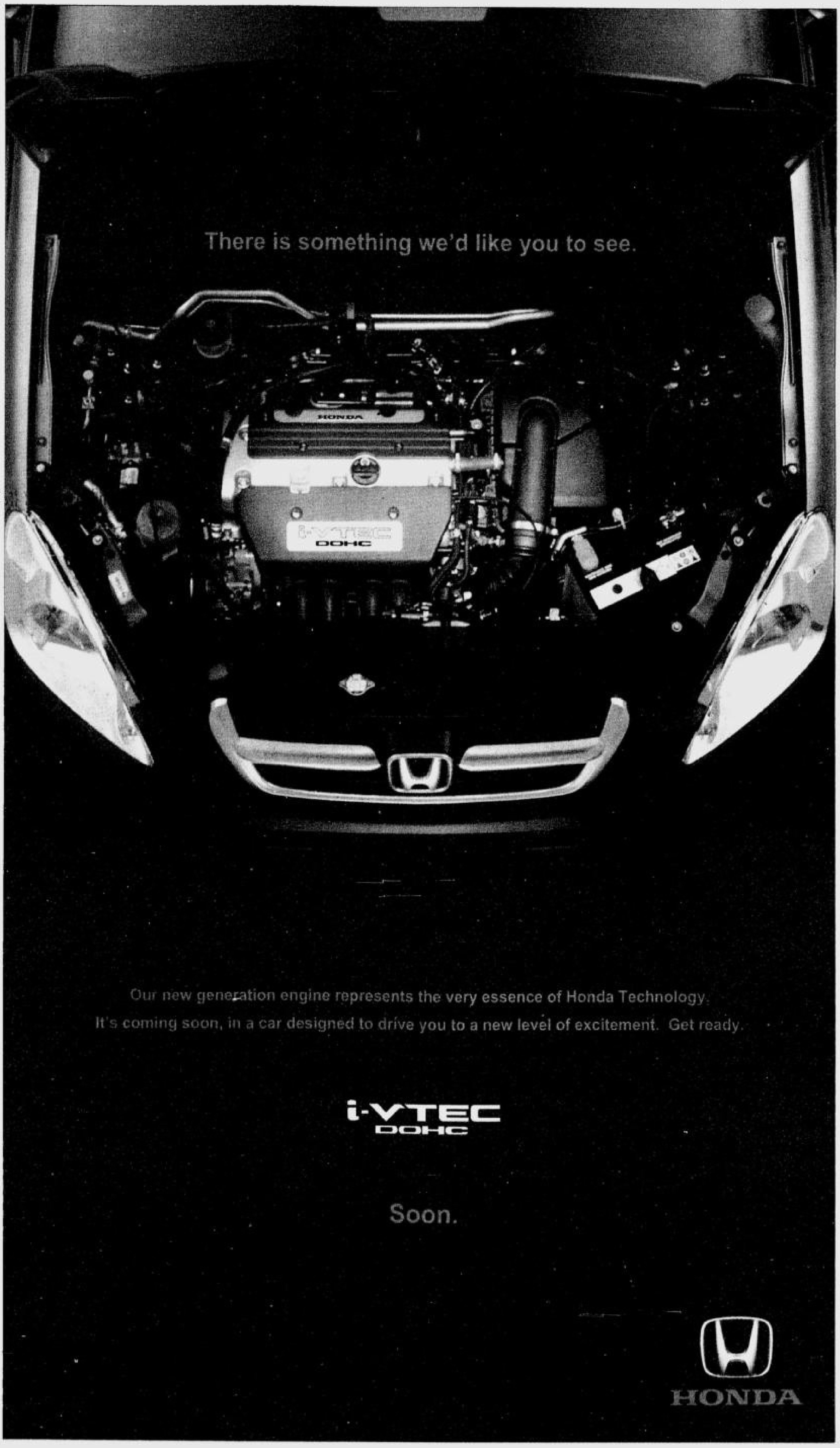
He cites the case of executives competing for advancement saying that they may be "disposed to withhold important information for some imagined personal advantage, such as enhancement of image or even the fear that sharing it might raise subordinates to an equal status."

Sound personnel policy

Behind all the good intentions of management to communicate with its employees and earn their goodwill is a sound personnel policy that commits a corporation to providing regular work, good working conditions, fair compensation, opportunity for advancement, recognition of accomplishment, and opportunity for self-expression, Moore says.

"Such a policy should express the philosophy of management in providing satisfaction to employees which induce them to give their maximum effort, skill, and loyalty to the organization," he explains.

"An employee relations program cannot gain goodwill and understanding in an organization that underpays, overworks, plays favorites among, and disregards the welfare of its employees." *Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez*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Social status by merit

Bobos in Paradise
By David Brooks
Simon Schuster, 2000

Beautiful Young Things
By Brooke de Ocampo
Assouline Publishing, 2000

REVIEWS

By James Perez Ong
Contributor

WHO are the new ruling class and how did they get there? Who set the trends and who follow them? The Bobos, that's who. In his book "Bobos In Paradise" (subtitled "The New Upper Class and How They Got There"), David Brooks coined this term to describe a new phenomenon in society, the merging of the Bohemian and the Bourgeois (Bobos) into one upper-middle class in America.

The convergence has produced a new, sensitive, open and more confrontational generation. A Bobo has one foot in the bohemian world of creativity and counter-culture, and the other firmly planted in the bourgeois realm of ambition and worldly success.

They are elitists who live in highly expensive lofts in Bohemian downtown areas or sip espresso in arty coffeehouses in upscale suburbs while listening to alternative music.

Brooks says Bobos are mostly people who have become important members of society not by lineage or by education, but by achievement and merit—college dropout Bill Gates, for instance. We are moving from a power society to a knowledge society, he warns.

Money ain't enough

What this new social order means that a high salary no longer always commands respect. It is not enough to be rich, you also have to be an achiever.

"Today in the Bobo establishment the best kind of money is incidental money," Brooks writes. "It's the kind of money you just happen to earn while pursuing your creative vision. That means the most prestigious professions involve artistic self-expression as well as big bucks."

And that is why, he argues, a novelist who makes $1 million a year is far more prestigious than a banker who makes $50 million. Why a software designer who has stock options in

SOCIAL/ p.D2

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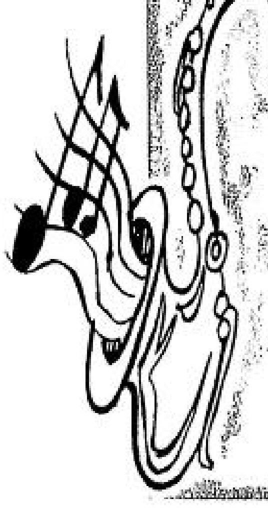

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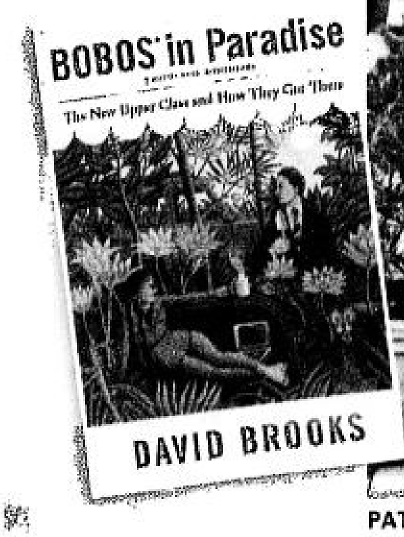
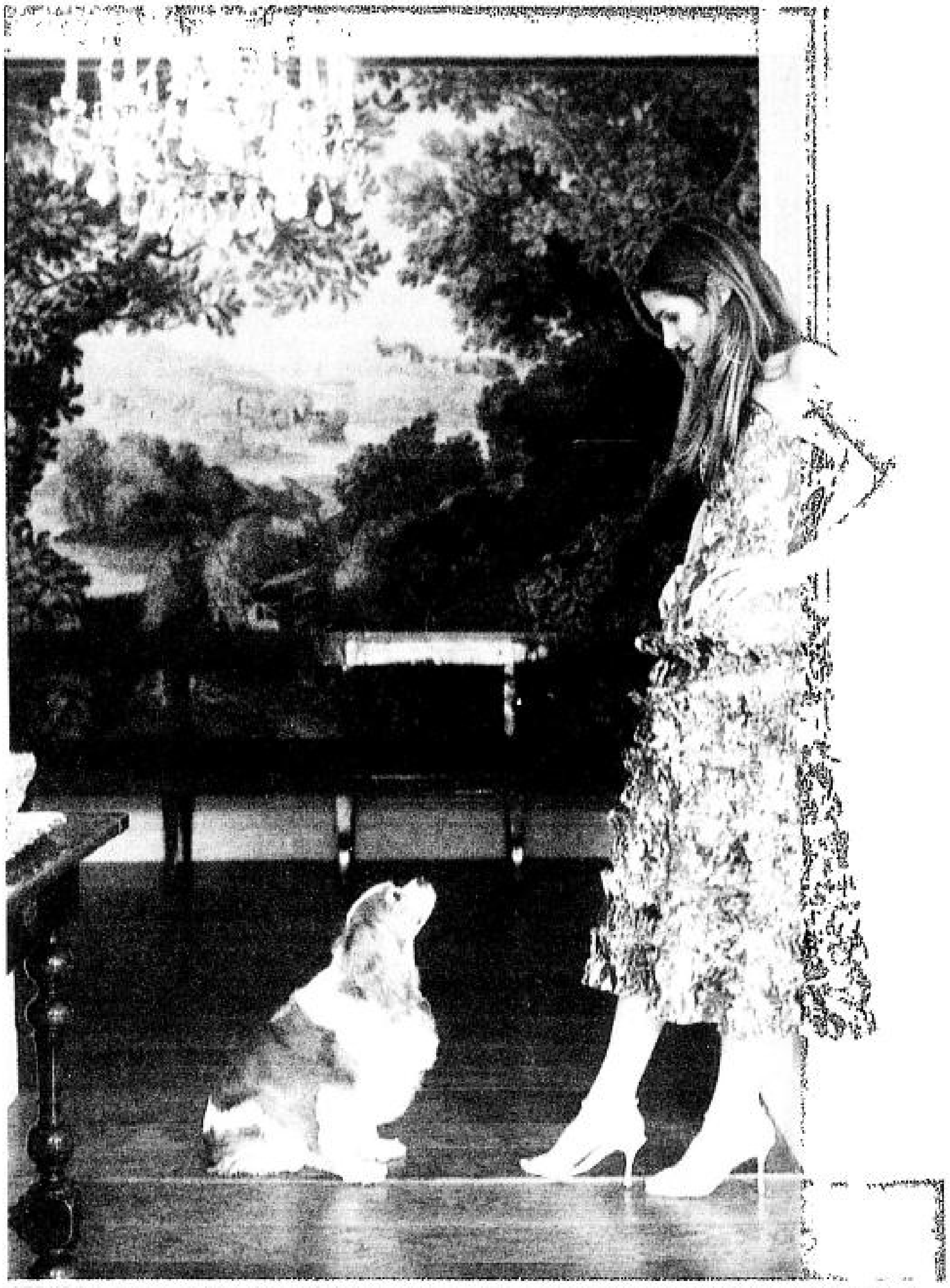
The 'bobo' and 'bright young thing' are today's new elite



PATRICIA Herrera, daughter of Carolina Herrera, in her garden in Greenwich


AERIN Lauder, granddaughter of the cosmetics giant, with her King Charles Spaniel in her Park Avenue Place

Social status by merit

From page D1

the millions is more prestigious than a real estate developer with holdings in the tens of millions. Why a newspaper columnist who makes $150,000 a year will get his calls returned more quickly than a lawyer who makes six times that.

How to be a Bobo

The book is an irreverent yet incisive study on this new pecking order. If you think you're a Bobo, then you can read through the chapters that guide you on: what to purchase, how to think, how to mold your career, improving your spiritual life and cultivating pleasure.

There is such a thing as a code of financial correctness—in the same manner the '80s generation invoked political correctness. "This new set of codes organizes the consumption patterns of the educated class, encouraging some kinds of spending, which are deemed virtuous, and discouraging others that seem vulgar or elitist. They redefine what it means to be a cultured person."

Rule 1. Only vulgar people spend money on luxury. Cultivated people restrict their lavish spending to necessities. Distinguish between needs and wants. It is acceptable to spend hundreds of dollars on a top-of-the-line exercise machine, because people must exercise, but it would be a sigh of a superficial nature to buy a big, showy powerboat.

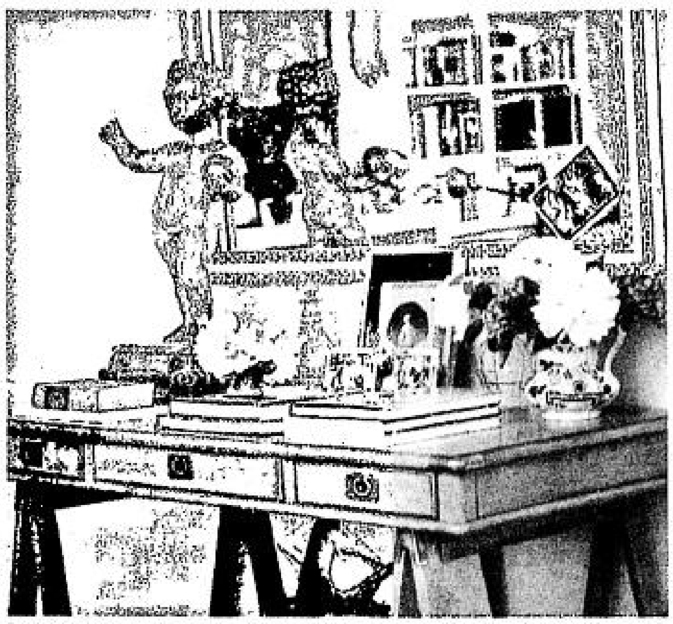
Rule 2. It is perfectly okay to spend lots of money on anything that is of "professional quality" even if it has nothing to do with your profession. "Very few of us are actually professional sherpas, leading parties up Mount Everest, but that doesn't mean an expedition-weight three-layer Gore-Tex Alpenglow reinforced Marmot Thunderlight jacket is not a reasonable purchase."

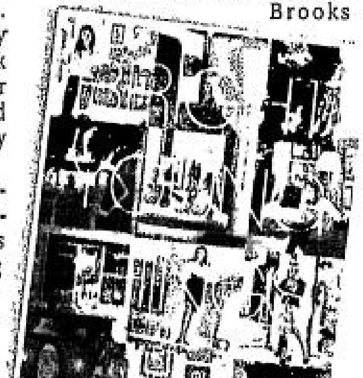
Rule 3. Practice the perfectionism of small things. It's pretentious to buy a mansion in a choice real-estate subdivision in, say, Alabang, but it's okay to select exactly the right pasta strainer, the distinctive doorknob, or one of those ingeniously designed corkscrews. "The smaller an item is, the more praiseworthy it is to have thought deeply about its purchase."

Rule 4. You can never have too much texture. The educated elites love texture. Roughness connotes authenticity and virtue. Forget matte black furniture and polished lacquer floors. Choose thick and textured ceramics over smooth and dainty porcelain. Call it shabby chic.

Rule 5. Bobos are expected to practice one-downmanship. Nothing is more disreputable than keeping up with the Joneses. Reject status symbols in order to raise your own status. Everything about you must be slightly more casual than your neighbor. "Your shoes won't be snazzy pumps; they'll be simple but expensive penny loafers from Prada. Ostentation is a disgrace, but anything unadorned is a sign of refreshing honesty. You must learn to keep down with the Joneses."

Rule 6. Spend huge amounts of money on things that used to be cheap. You don't buy big luxurious items like yachts and jewelry, you buy the same items as the proletariat—except look for the added value. "So we will buy chicken legs, like everybody else [and not caviar], but they'll likely be free-range chickens that in life were treated better than Elizabeth Taylor at a health spa." You don't just buy vegetables, you buy organic. The beauty of such a strategy, Brooks says, is that "it allows us to be egalitarian and pretentious at the same time."


PERSONAL style, not self-importance, is cultivated in the 'Bobo' lifestyle.



Young ones

A more select group of Bobos are what New York socialite Brooke de Ocampo calls the Bright Young Things. The tag was first coined post-World War I to define a celebrated London group, including assorted Mitford sisters, Diana Cooper and Evelyn Waugh.

In this beautifully detailed coffee-table book cum social register, De Ocampo focuses on a new breed of New York celebrities: Those who cultivate their own personal style, who have a "fondness for flea market treasures, for brightly colored walls and fabrics, open-space eat-in kitchens, loft spaces and, in general, the BYT pastiche approach to decorating: Anything goes as long as it is comfortable, the very best, the most cool, or the most kitschy."

The book, which features a total of 27 homes with pictures by Jonathan Becker, takes us not just inside the abodes and lives of these BYTs, but also inside their minds, as each of them answer Proust-type questionnaires that randomly ask about their greatest fears, their most marked characteristics or their favorite color.

Children of trendsetters

Inevitably, most of those featured in the books are actually children of social figures in their time, but who have earned their own peers' respect by excelling in their current jobs. Unlike in the time of Babe Paley or CZ Guest, it is no longer chic to be occupied full-time with raising funds for charity.

These young celebrities have real 9-to-5 jobs, preferably something glamorous, and if they need to devote time to charity, it would have to be in the after-hours.

Patricia Herrera, 28, is the youngest of the four daughters of fashion designer Carolina Herrera. She is a fashion editor at Vanity Fair and she is pictured in her one-bedroom, garden-level apartment in a Greenwich Village townhouse.

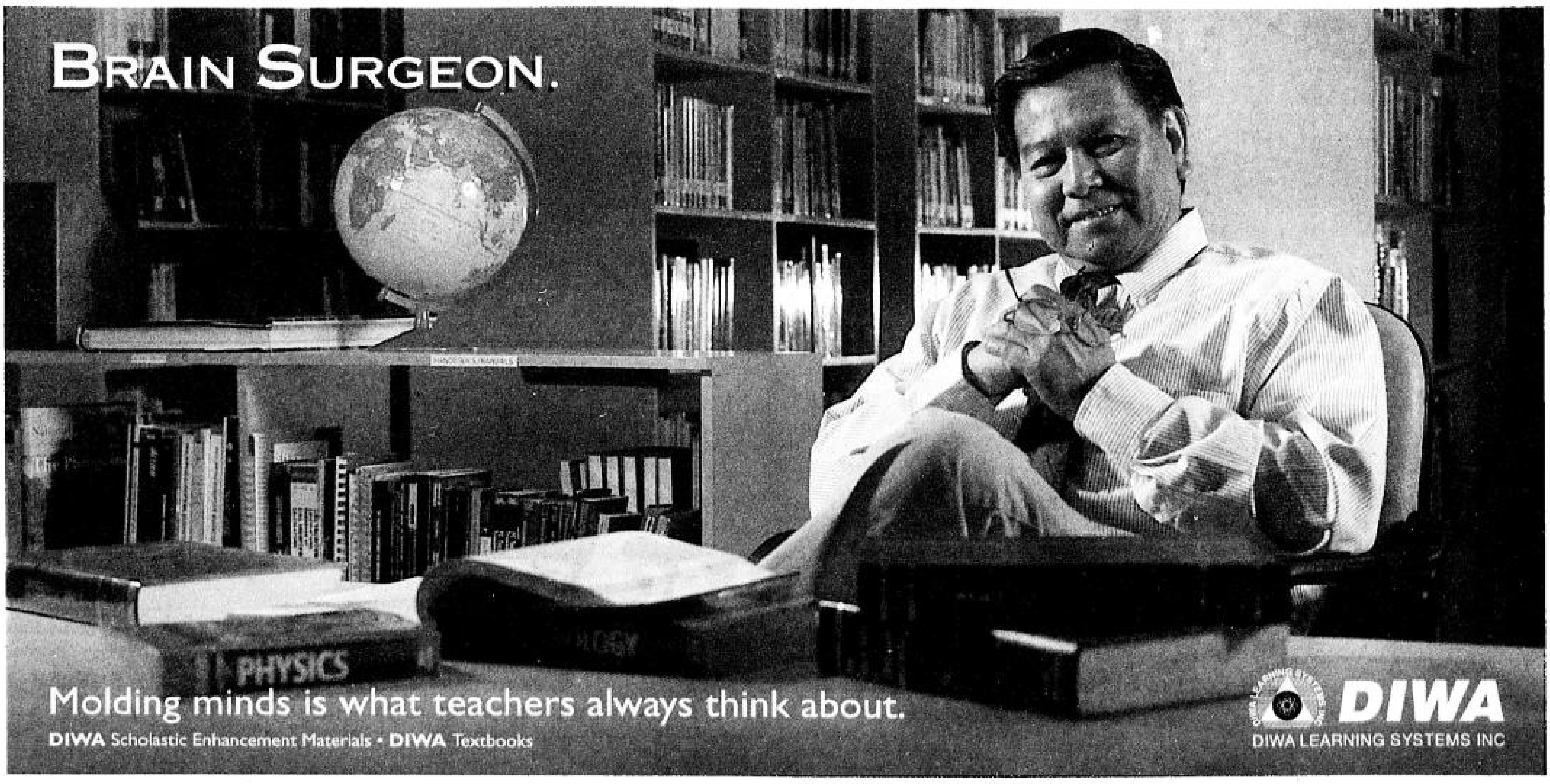
The garden is bigger than the apartment and, on summers, becomes her entertaining center. "On the weekends, if I'm in town, I love to have friends over for breakfast. I'm really good at omelets, but that's about it."

Jane and Aerin Lauder are both granddaughters of Estée Lauder, founder of the luxury cosmetics empire of the same name. Jane works in the family business, like her sister Aerin. Her style is clean, simple and all about good design.

Aerin, who is being groomed to take over her grandmother's gigantic company, is featured in a stately Park Avenue building she shares with her husband, toddler son, and a King Charles Spaniel named Chelsea.

The couple collaborated with French decorator Jacques Grange to pay homage to Estée, "who loved beautiful fabrics and pillows and lived in the luxurious manner of an earlier era." In

SOCIAL/ p.D4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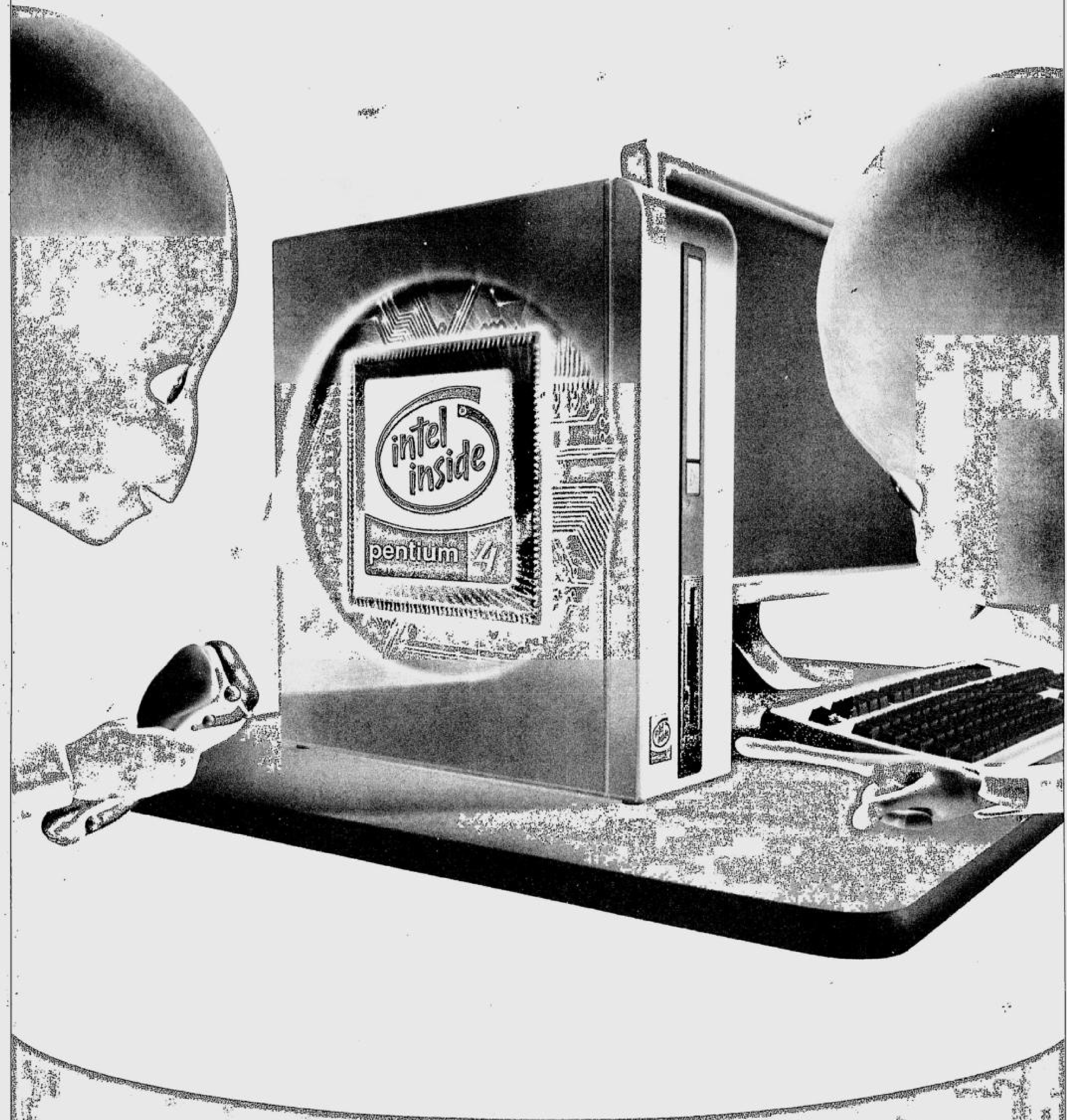

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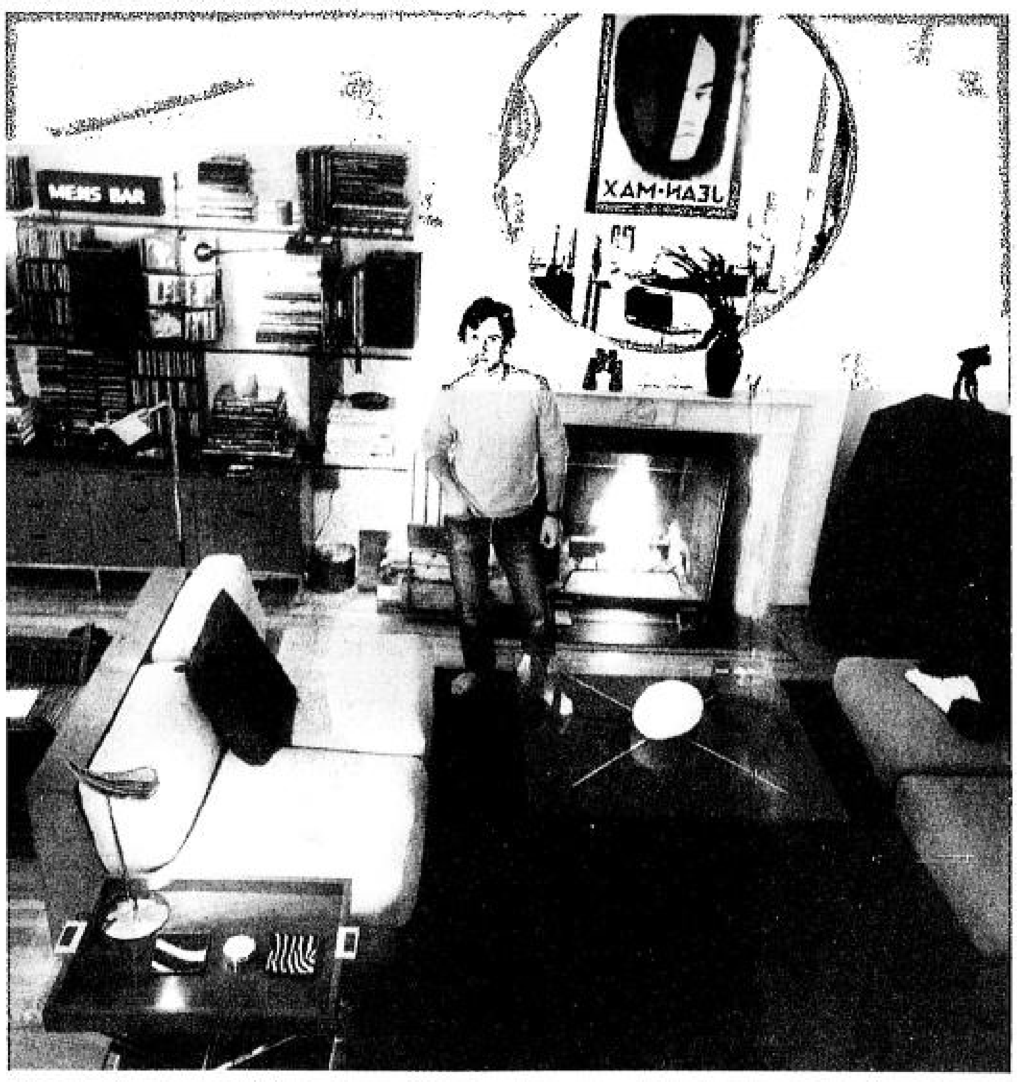
ELECTRONIC musician Moby hardly stays in one place.



ANDREW Lauren, son of the fashion designer, in his apartment filled with the feel of Ralph Lauren

Social status by merit

From page D2

Aerin's personal dressing room, she tracked down and used the same hand-painted wallpaper her grandmother always used.

Andrew Lauren, son of Ricki and Ralph Lauren, builders of the Polo empire, also embraces his father's style in his own apartment. It has the feel of a Ralph Lauren ad: full of sleek, well-made furniture and decorated with quirky antiques, vintage books and other personal memorabilia he has been collecting for years.

He designed his own bookshelves but, in a quirky gesture, arranged his books by color rather than subject or author. "I just found that when I came home I wanted everything to be simple. The randomness of book spines struck me as complicated, so one day I just decided to color-code them."

The self-actualizers

The book also features meritocrats—the breed who arrived in society by their own merit. Painter Damian Loeb, whose works have been described as "Norman Rockwell meets David Lynch," lives in an unfinished shop house in TriBeCa whose rundown façade betrays nothing about the bare but comfortable loft that he has turned into an artist's studio/apartment which he shares with "two particularly neurotic cats," Stinky and Fatty.

Even so, the most important object in the apartment, Loeb claims, is his stereo and his teddy bear. "I've kept him because he's never critical and always discreet."

Moby, the groundbreaking electronic musician, hardly stays in one place for more than 18 hours. In 1999, he traveled through 176 cities over four continents. That explains the simplicity of his loft in New York's hip Lower East Side.

The only décor in his place is a painting by his friend, Damian Loeb. He hates buying, and everything in the apartment—from the Saarinen side table to the Danish modern sofa to a genuine fire engine ladder—were simply found on the streets of his neighborhood.

The most interesting part of his loft is the work area where 18 inches of sand lie beneath the false floor to absorb the sound waves from thumping bass speakers.

"All I need, and I'm sorry to sound like such an awful 21st-century cliché, is a good phone line and my laptop, although a nice view, good linen and a kitchen can help a lot, too." In order to qualify as a BYT, or a Bobo, it helps to get your priorities in order.

ARTIST Damian Loeb's tasteful studio is hidden behind this unfinished shop house in TriBeCa.

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Dumaguete writers workshop fellows named

NATIONAL Artist for Literature Edith L. Tiempo has announced the grant of fellowships to 10 young writers for the 41st National Writers Workshop in Dumaguete City from May 6-24.

The traditional sponsor for the celebrated summer workshop is College Assurance Plan of the Phils. Lending support this year is Development Bank of the Phils. under its chair Vitaliano Nanagas.

The fellows for poetry are Ana Maria Katigbak and Naya Valdellon of Ateneo de Manila University, Michael Morco of De La Salle University, and Allan Pastrana and Angelo Suarez of University of Santo Tomas, while the fellows for fiction are Peter Mayshle of Ateneo de Manila, Maryanne Moll of Ateneo de Naga, Kristine Alave and Baryon Posadas of UP Diliman, and Daryll Jane Posadas of UP Tacloban.

Special fellowships have also been granted to Vanessa Alpeche of Silliman University and Alicia Saavedra Go, dean of the Graduate School of FCIC in Baybay, Leyte.

Resident panelists assisting workshop director Tiempo are multiawarded writers Cesar Ruiz Aquino, lawyer Ernesto Superal Yee and Bobby Flores-Villasis, while guest panelists include Ophelia A. Dimalanta, Butch Macansantos, Anthony Tan, Dr. Gemino H. Abad, Cirilo F. Bautista, Krip Yuson, Marjorie Evasco, Susan Lara and Danny Reyes.

ANVIL AWARD WINNER

Finex president Conchita Manabat and author Alfred "Krip" Yuson receive the Anvil Awards of Excellence for the coffee-table book titled "Paragons: 23 CEOs on Corporate Ethics" during the 37th Anvil Gabi ng Parangal held recently at the Hotel Inter-Continental. From left, Eduardo Alcaraz, 37th Anvil Awards committee chair; Leonardo Magno Jr., judge; lawyer Melvyn Martin, cochair of the board of judges, PR Tools; Teresita Salonga, Finex Project coor-dinator; Dean Ellen Paglinauan, judge; Marily Orosa, Studio 5 president and book designer; Honesto Isleta, PRSP president. "Paragons" is a timely and relevant book that discusses the value of ethics in the workplace and its role in nation-building through the inspiring stories of 23 captains of top corporations who made ethics their way of life.

Iron Deficiency Anemia or IDA

remains among the major global nutritional problems affecting an estimated 2.1billion people.

Women of reproductive age are particularly at risk of IDA because they have higher need for iron and they lose blood on a regular basis through their monthly period. Based on the World Health Organization data, the prevalence of IDA among women in developing countries is 42%.* In the Philippines, one out of three women suffers from IDA —33% among female adolescents and 50% among pregnant women.* *

IDA happens when the hemoglobin level falls below normal level of 12g/dl. It is characterized by the reduction in size, number and color of red blood cells, which results in the reduced oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. This could lead to weakness, dizziness, skin paleness, irritability, lack of endurance and reduced mental and physical work capacity.

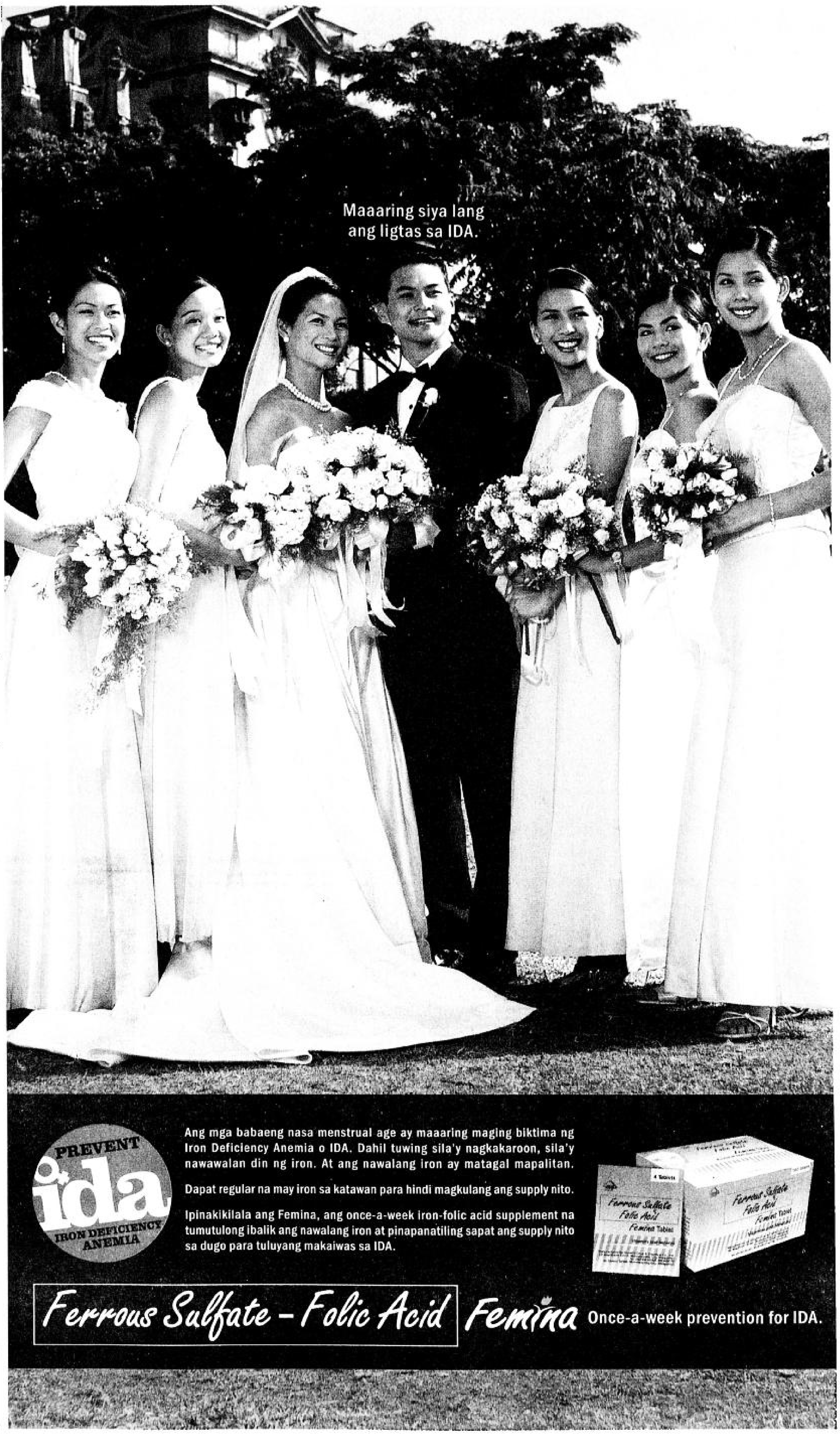
It takes time to sufficiently fill up the lost iron stores in the body because iron in the diet is inherently poorly absorbed. To prevent **IDA**, it is essential to have regular iron supplementation and eat foods that are rich in heme iron (such as liver, meat, animal & protein sources) and Vitamin C. Furthermore, Iron absorption is enhanced if coffee and tea are avoided right after meals.

Femina helps prevent IDA. It is the first and only once a week iron and folic acid supplement that works synergistically to help maintain and ensure adequate supply of healthy red blood cells to prevent IDA, and in turn help the body function normally. It needs to be taken only once-a-week, so it's better absorbed by the body.

* 1999 American Society for Clinical Nutrition

* **1998 Philippine Food & Nutrition Survey*

ADVT

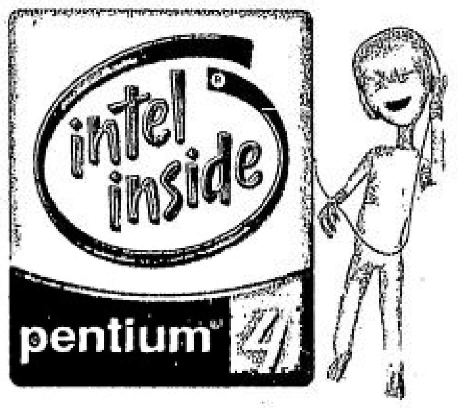


Ang mga babaeng nasa menstrual age ay maaaring maging biktima ng Iron Deficiency Anemia o IDA. Dahil tuwing sila'y nagkakaroon, sila'y nawawalan din ng iron. At ang nawalang iron ay matagal mapalitan.

Dapat regular na may iron sa katawan para hindi magkulang ang supply nito.

Ipinakikilala ang Femina, ang once-a-week iron-folic acid supplement na tumutulong ibalik ang nawalang iron at pinapanatiling sapat ang supply nito sa dugo para tuluyang makaiwas sa IDA.

Ferrous Sulfate – Folic Acid **Femina** Once-a-week prevention for IDA.



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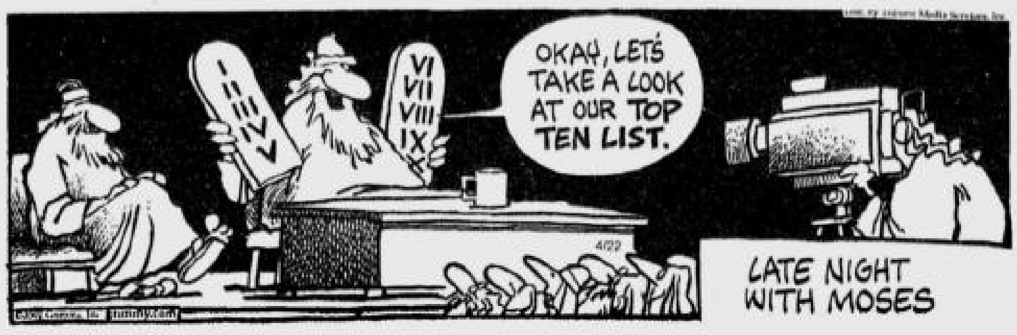
ComicRelief

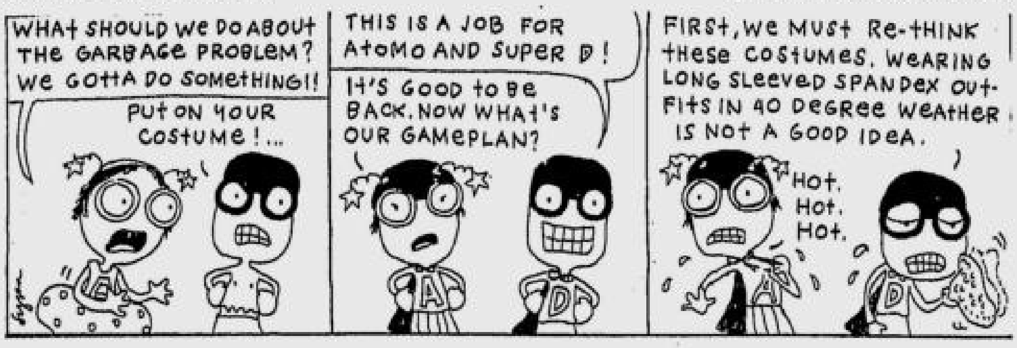
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I II III IV V
VI VII VIII IX
OKAY, LETS TAKE A LOOK AT OUR TOP TEN LIST.
LATE NIGHT WITH MOSES

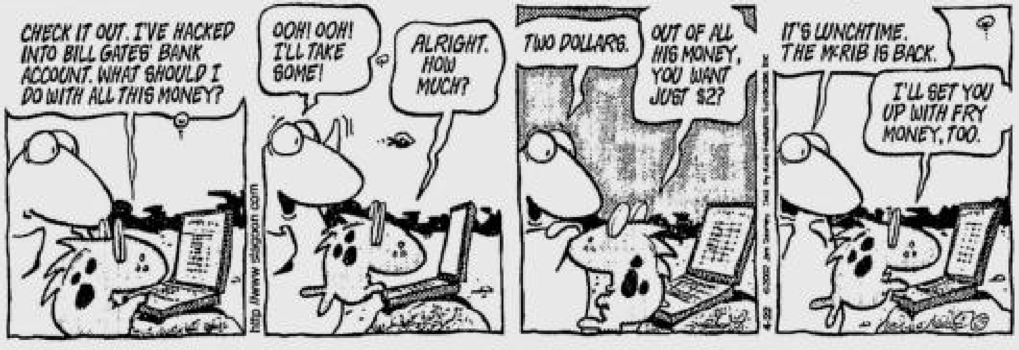
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE GARBAGE PROBLEM? WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!!
PUT ON YOUR COSTUME!...
THIS IS A JOB FOR ATOMO AND SUPER D!
IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK. NOW WHAT'S OUR GAMEPLAN?
FIRST, WE MUST RE-THINK THESE COSTUMES. WEARING LONG SLEEVED SPANDEX OUTFITS IN 40 DEGREE WEATHER IS NOT A GOOD IDEA.
HOT. HOT. HOT.

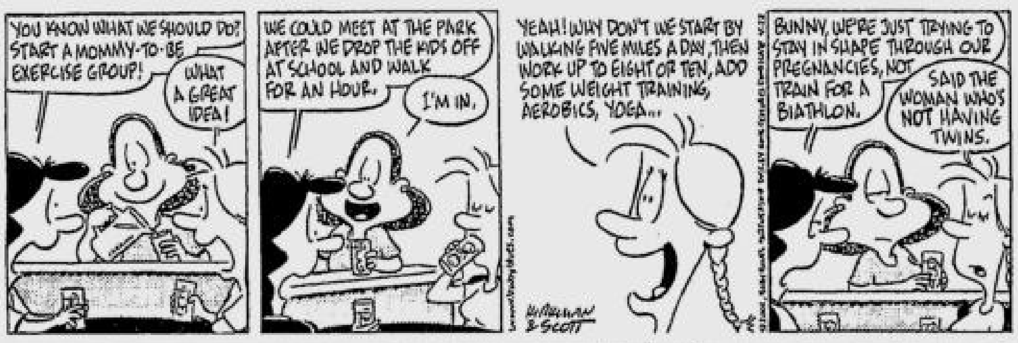
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


CHECK IT OUT. I'VE HACKED INTO BILL GATES' BANK ACCOUNT. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH ALL THIS MONEY?
OOH! OOH! I'LL TAKE SOME!
ALRIGHT. HOW MUCH?
TWO DOLLARS.
OUT OF ALL HIS MONEY, YOU WANT JUST $2?
IT'S LUNCHTIME. THE McRIB IS BACK.
I'LL SET YOU UP WITH FRY MONEY, TOO.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO? START A MOMMY-TO-BE EXERCISE GROUP!
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
WE COULD MEET AT THE PARK AFTER WE DROP THE KIDS OFF AT SCHOOL AND WALK FOR AN HOUR.
I'M IN.
YEAH! WHY DON'T WE START BY WALKING FIVE MILES A DAY, THEN WORK UP TO EIGHT OR TEN, ADD SOME WEIGHT TRAINING, AEROBICS, YOGA...
BUNNY, WE'RE JUST TRYING TO STAY IN SHAPE THROUGH OUR PREGNANCIES, NOT TRAIN FOR A BIATHLON.
SAID THE WOMAN WHO'S NOT HAVING TWINS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Glen Campbell, Aaron Spelling, Daniel Johns, Peter Frampton

Happy Birthday: You'll want to remake everything and everyone this year. Your ideas will be good and you are likely to get help from those in positions to support your concerns. You will actively seek love relationships or business partnerships. You will be creative in your self-expression and attract many friends . Your numbers are 2, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your main focus should be on getting ahead in business or making whatever adjustments to your diet or lifestyle that are required in order to feel and look great.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Self-improvement programs will show quick results. You should take the time to work on a creative project. Getting out with friends should be on your agenda.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions may be running high on the home front. Try not to take life so seriously. If you are a little happy-go-lucky you will receive much better response from others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you get out and do a little snooping around you'll meet some interesting people. Pleasure trips will lead to all sorts of possibilities. Your outgoing warm nature will attract friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make money today but someone may also try to take it away from you. Don't be so generous that you end up worrying about your cash flow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your ability to deal with people will bring rewards that you can't even imagine. The more accommodating you are when dealing with others the better the response you will receive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you can do, not what you can't. You have everything going for you so pick yourself up and start the ball rolling. Money making opportunities must be taken advantage of.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your contributions will be the passageway to future prospects. You will make interesting and profitable new contacts through new groups or organizations you donate money to .

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts to yourself today. You are likely to say something that will lead to a confrontation. If you are aggressive you will probably end up making little headway.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You must follow your instincts and contact people that you want to have in your life. The time to make your move is now. Be practical in your approach and direct in your speech.

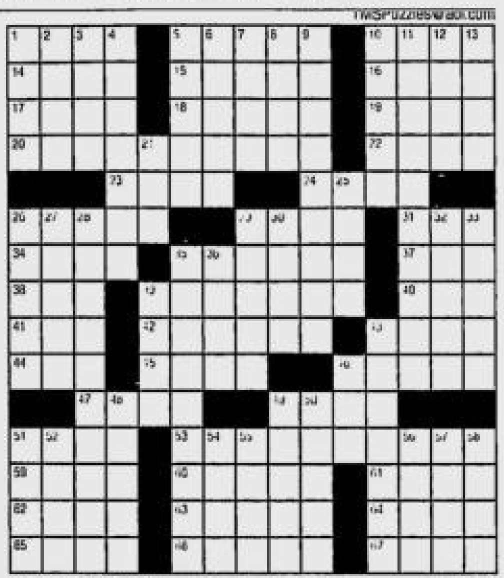
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you focus on making money and not spending it you can have a successful day. Don't lend money to friends or relatives. It will only ruin your relationship and you aren't likely to get your cash back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you care about may be a little emotional today. Be nice and attentive and you will be able to keep things running smoothly. An older relative may need your help or cause a problem for you.

Birthday Baby: You are headstrong and independent and have a real desire to be first. You are mentally quick and will never back away from an argument. You must stay busy in order to be happy.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

4/22/02

ACROSS
1 Eldest Baldwin
5 Beat it!
10 On a cruise
14 Run smoothly
15 Popeye's love
16 Quiet period
17 Director Kazan
18 Adds spirits
19 Humorist Bombeck
20 Kansas blooms
22 Space saucers
23 Pitch
24 Dillon or Damon
26 Plus feature
29 Promote oneself
31 Broadway hotdog?
34 Pioneer
35 Whirl
37 Actor Wallach
38 Jillian or Landers
39 Freed of obstructions
40 Ready alternative?
41 Up-to-date, for short
42 Cuts in two
43 Took off
44 Globe
45 Wight or Man
46 Quotes as an authority
47 Plays a character
49 Like a drumhead
51 Lofty
53 On the same __ (in harmony)
59 Outer limit
60 __ we all?
61 Ashtabula's lake
62 Beer picks
63 Wash cycle
64 Facet
65 Spectrum hues
66 "The Purple People __"
67 Went fast

DOWN
1 Mimics
2 Pip
3 Poet's name for Ireland
4 Made by hand
5 Singular performances
6 Cat weapons
7 Elmer or Jerry
8 Affirm
9 GI's fellow diners
10 Native Alaskan
11 Use a browser
12 Roper of polls
13 Unfortunately
21 Fate
25 Mature
26 San Antonio landmark
27 Gaucho's address
28 Coerced
29 Atlanta ballplayer
30 Hard to find
32 Solo
33 Fielder's gloves
35 Flutes and tumblers
36 Cry for attention
39 Drink voucher
43 Observe
46 Theatrical signal
48 Capablanca's game
49 Not at all relaxed
50 Change to fit
51 Listen to
52 Stagnant
54 Song from an opera
55 Blowhole, e.g.
56 Handhold
57 Prevailing tendency
58 Listen to

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	M	E	S	T	O	■	C	A	T	A	L	P	A
I	V	O	R	I	E	S	■	A	C	A	C	I	A	S
L	E	G	A	T	E	S	■	P	E	N	T	A	D	S
I	R	A	S	■	■	I	S	S	■	■	■	I	R	E
A	R	M	■	F	I	F	E	■	S	E	A	S	O	N
T	A	B	■	U	N	I	T	■	T	A	L	E	N	T
E	N	O	U	N	C	E	S	■	A	R	I	S	E	S
■	■	■	S	E	E	S	A	W	I	N	G	■	■	■
C	O	B	U	R	N	■	P	I	N	E	N	U	T	S
A	C	U	R	A	S	■	A	P	E	R	■	T	O	W
T	E	M	P	L	E	■	R	E	D	S	■	E	L	I
G	A	B	■	■	■	L	T	D	■	■	G	N	U	S
U	N	L	O	O	S	E	■	O	S	M	O	S	E	S
T	I	E	D	Y	E	S	■	U	K	R	A	I	N	E
S	A	D	D	L	E	S	■	T	I	T	T	L	E	S

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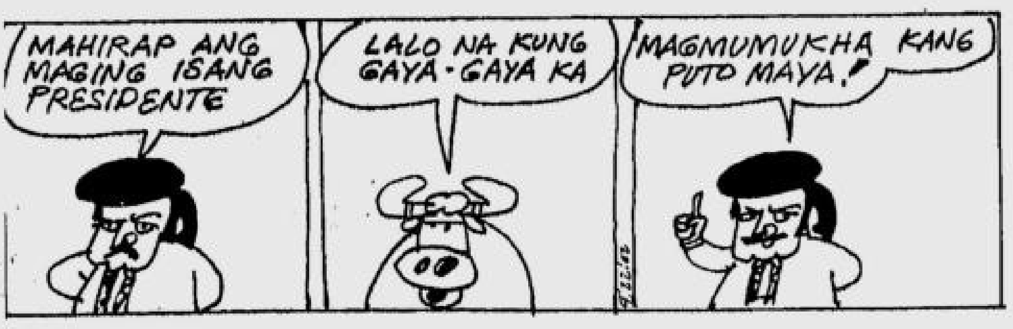
4/22/02

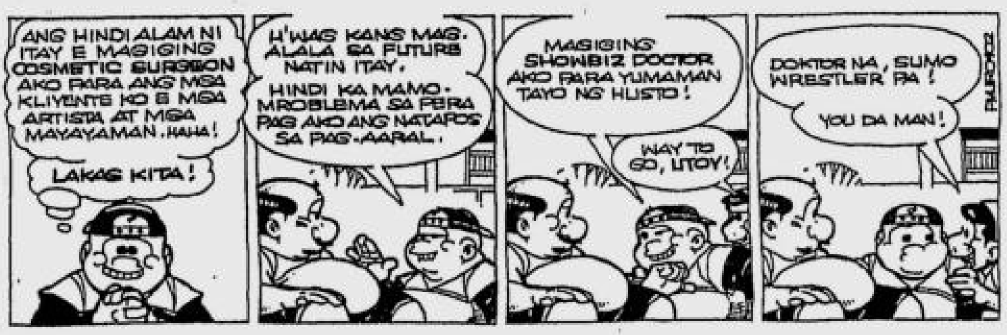
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAHIRAP ANG MAGING ISANG PRESIDENTE
LALO NA KUNG GAYA-GAYA KA
MAGMUMUKHA KANG PUTO MAYA!

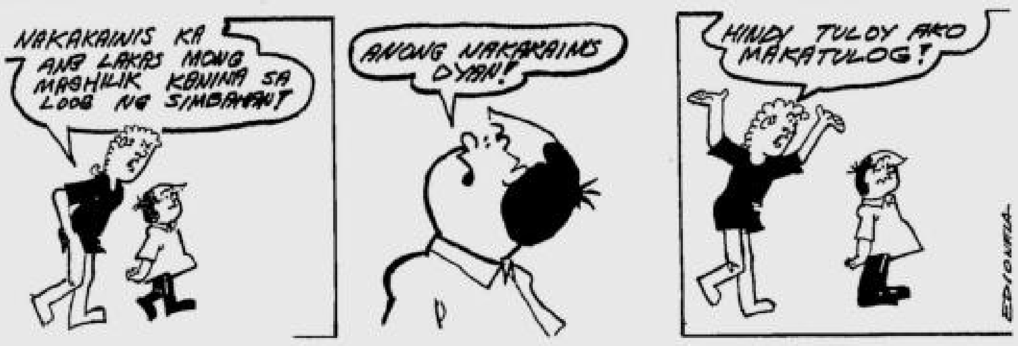
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG HINDI ALAM NI ITAY E MAGIGING COSMETIC SURGEON AKO PARA ANG MGA KLIYENTE KO E MGA ARTISTA AT MGA MAYAYAMAN. HAHA!
LAKAS KITA!
H'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA SA FUTURE NATIN ITAY.
HINDI KA MAMOMROBLEMA SA PERA PAG AKO ANG NATAPOS SA PAG-AARAL.
MAGIGING SHOWBIZ DOCTOR AKO PARA YUMAMAN TAYO NG HUSTO!
WAY TO GO, UTOY!
DOKTOR NA, SUMO WRESTLER PA!
YOU DA MAN!

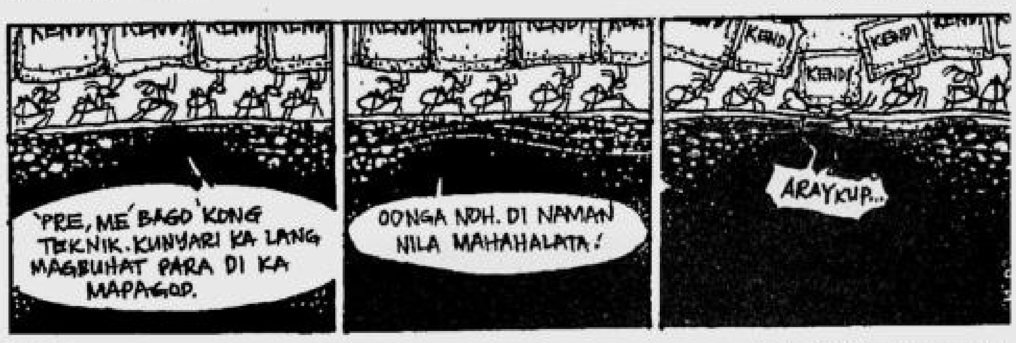
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAKAKAINIS KA ANG LAKAS MONG MAGHILIK KANINA SA LOOB NG SIMBAHAN!
ANONG NAKAKAINIS DYAN!
HINDI TULOY AKO MAKATULOG!
EDIONELA

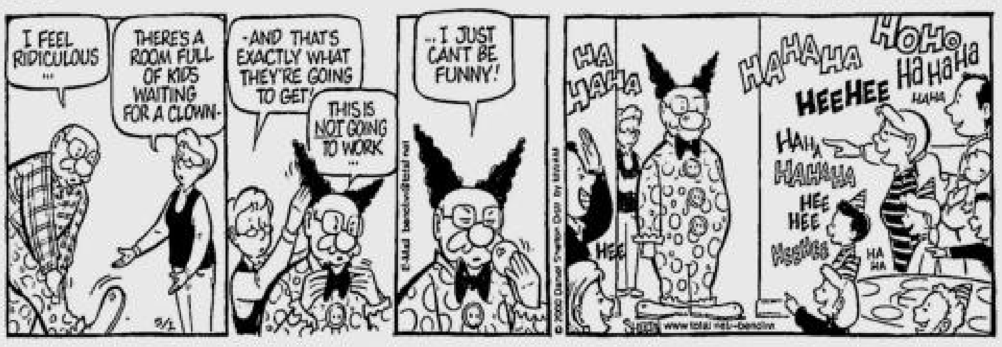
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KENDI
'PRE, ME' BAGO 'KONG TEKNIK. KUNYARI KA LANG MAGBUHAT PARA DI KA MAPAGOD.
OONGA NOH. DI NAMAN NILA MAHAHALATA!
ARAYKUP..

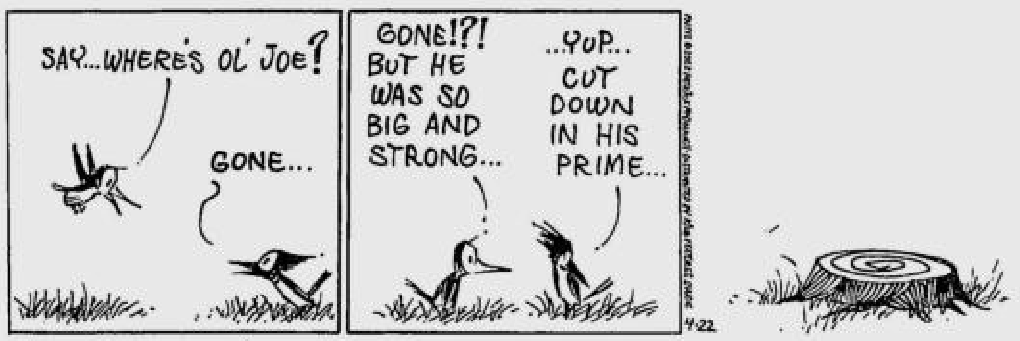
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I FEEL RIDICULOUS ...
THERE'S A ROOM FULL OF KIDS WAITING FOR A CLOWN-
-AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO GET!
THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK ...
-.I JUST CAN'T BE FUNNY!
HA HAHA
HAHAHA
HOHO
HaHaHa
HEEHEE
HAHA
HAHAHA
HEE HEE
HEEHEE
HA HA
HEE

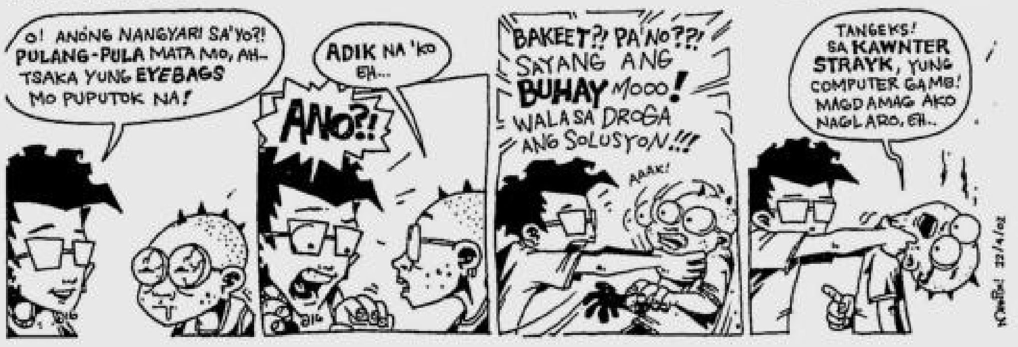
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SAY...WHERE'S OL' JOE?
GONE...
GONE!?! BUT HE WAS SO BIG AND STRONG...
...YUP... CUT DOWN IN HIS PRIME...
4-22

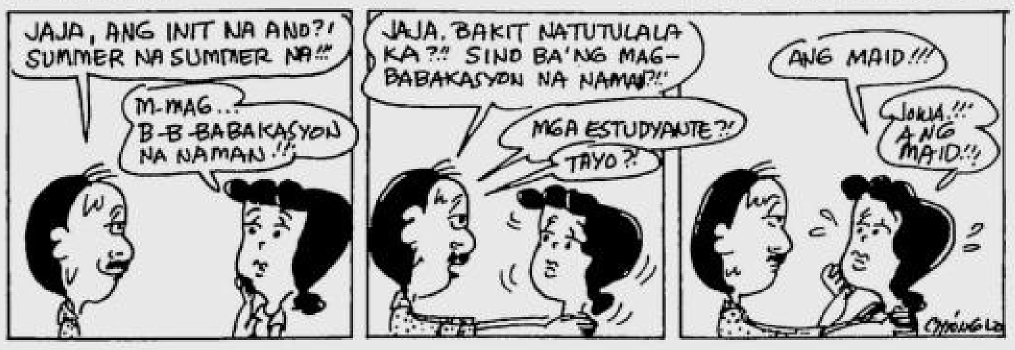
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O! ANONG NANGYARI SA'YO?! PULANG-PULA MATA MO, AH- TSAKA YUNG EYEBAGS MO PUPUTOK NA!
ADIK NA 'KO EH...
ANO?!
BAKEET?! PA'NO??! SAYANG ANG BUHAY MOOO! WALA SA DROGA ANG SOLUSYON!!!
AAAK!
TANGEKS! SA KAWNTER STRAYK, YUNG COMPUTER GAME! MAGDAMAG AKO NAGLARO, EH..

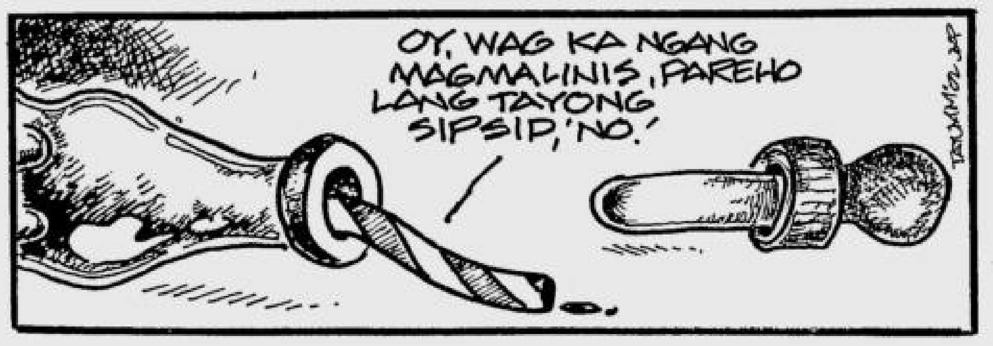
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, ANG INIT NA ANO?! SUMMER NA SUMMER NA!!!
M-MAG... B-B-BABAKASYON NA NAMAN!!!
JAJA. BAKIT NATUTULALA KA?! SINO BA'NG MAGBABAKASYON NA NAMAN?!
MGA ESTUDYANTE?!
TAYO?!
ANG MAID!!!
JOKIA!!! ANG MAID!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, WAG KA NGANG MAGMALINIS, PAREHO LANG TAYONG SIPSIP, 'NO.'

Baguio hosts UST creative writing workshop

THE CENTER for Creative Writing and Studies (CCWS) of the University of Santo Tomas opens tomorrow during the annual UST National Writers Workshop at Hotel Veneracion in Baguio City.

The workshop will have 15 fellows from all over the country in a writing clinic that will be directed by Ophelia Dimalanta, Cirilo Bautista and National Artist F. Sionil Jose.

Other workshop panelists are Rebecca Anonuevo, Michael Coroza, Lourd de Veyra, Ramil Gulle and Jose Victor Torres.

On April 27, the CCWS will host a seminar for literature teachers and lovers of Northern Luzon. The seminar will tackle the teaching of poetry, fiction and drama.

Also on April 27, the CCWS will launch the fifth issue of Tomas, the official literary journal of UST.

Oracle readings at National and Powerbooks

ANVIL Publishing, National Bookstore and Powerbooks will host "May Day Eve Oracle Readings" on April 30, 4-7 p.m., at National Bookstore branches in SM Manila and SM West and in Powerbooks Megamall.

The readings will be conducted by the Spirit Questors led by playright and teacher Tony Perez. The Questors will be introducing a new form of reading or future-telling based on the oracles of a renowned Chinese sage Chuko Kung Ming. These oracles were translated into Filipino by Perez and will be featured in his upcoming book.

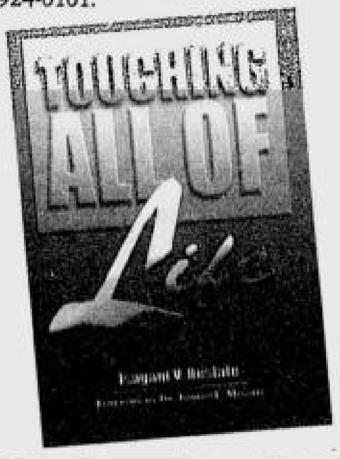
Readings will be free for all buyers of Perez's best-selling books, such as "Mga Panibagong Kulam," "Mga Panibagong Tawas," "Mga Panibagong Orasyon," "Beings," "The Departed" and "The Calling."

Book of sermons

THE NATIONAL City United Church has released the book "Touching All of Life," a compilation of sermons of pastor Isagani V. Deslate.

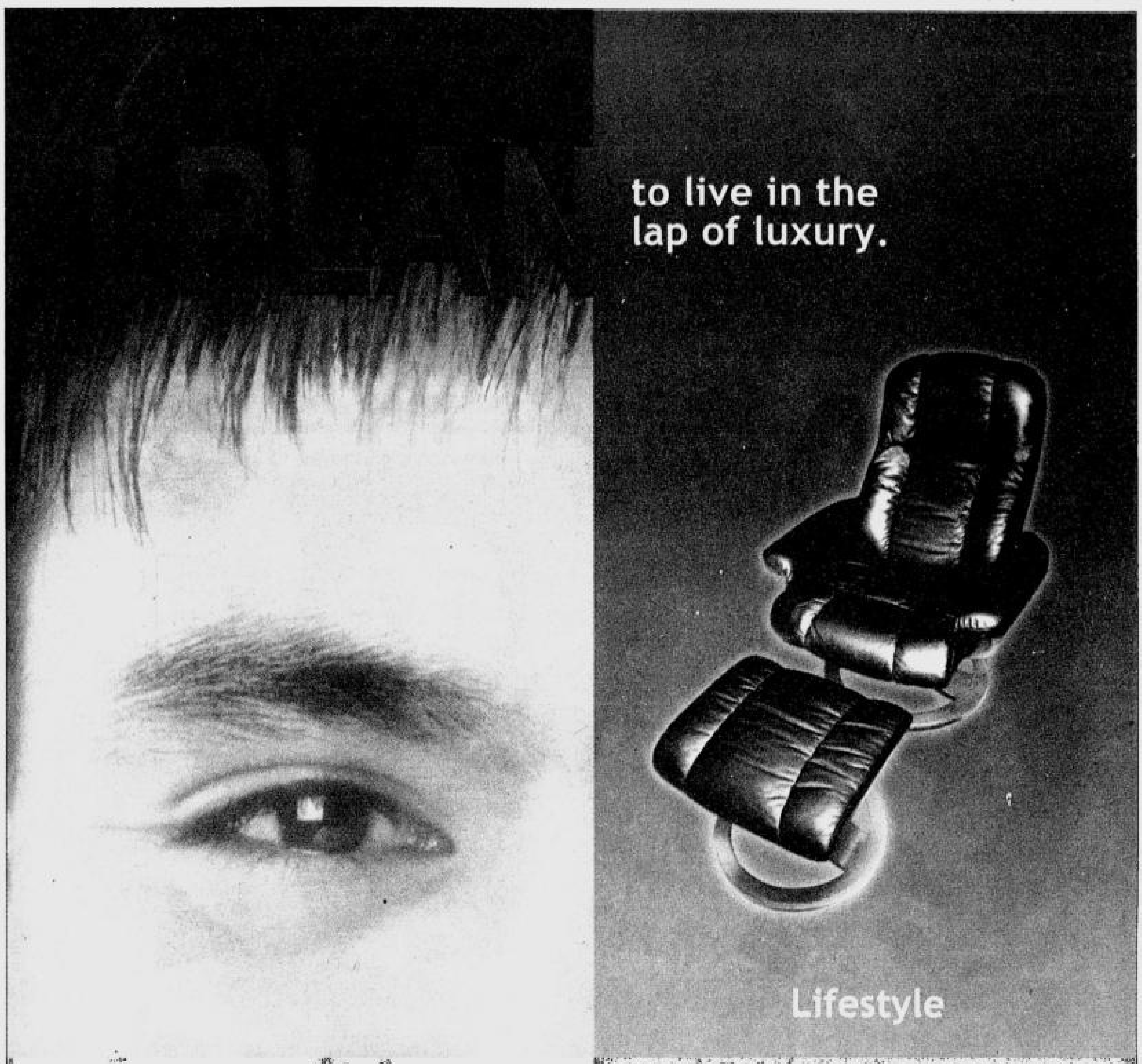
The 203-page book reflects Deslate's several years of pastoral work in the NCUC, one of the biggest congregations of the United Church of Christ in the Phils. It is written in easy-to-understand English and edited by Elayda Marasigan and Bezalie Bautista-Uckung, executive director of New Day Publishers.

The book is available at the NCUC (96 Times St., West Triangle, QC), National Bookstore and Philippine Bible Society Bookstore. Call 924-0101.



Torres High School Class of 1949 party

TORRES High School Class of 1949 will have a reunion party on April 28, 3 p.m., at the residence of Pablo Garcia, St. Jude Street, Sacred Heart Village, Novaliches, QC. Contact Dr. Leticia De Mesa at 928-7282.



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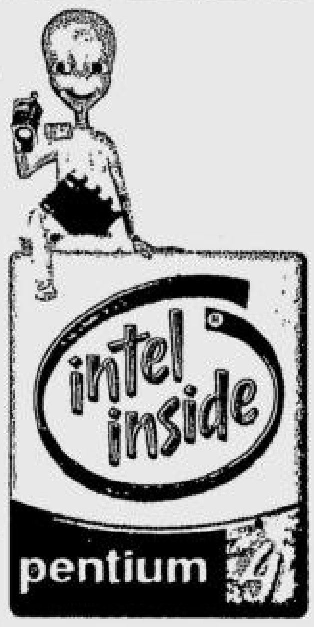

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LIFE Arts & Design E

Fernando Poe Jr. to receive critics' prize

FERNANDO Poe Jr. will receive the Natatanging Gawad Urian (lifetime achievement award) during the 25th Gawad Urian on May 11 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Gawad Urian is handed out by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics. It is widely considered the most important of movie awards and a crucial barometer of excellence in Philippine cinema.

The Natatanging Gawad is given to movie artists—actors, directors, writers, cameramen, musicians, technicians, even cosmetic artists—whose lifework can be held up as a standard of excellence for all. Previous recipients were Nida Blanca, Mona Lisa, Dolphy, Tito Arevalo and the Ma-

FERNANDO/ p.E4

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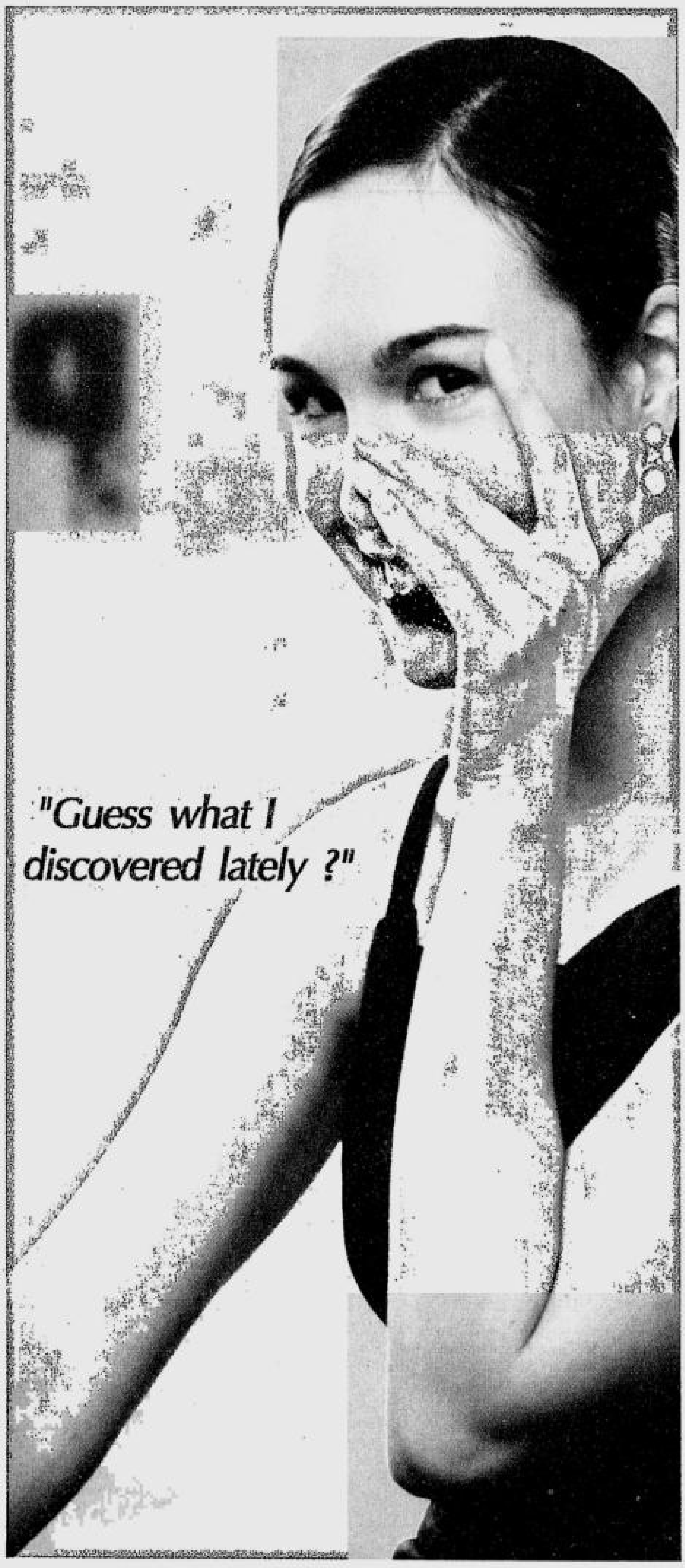
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Why is everything so hush-hush about new philharmonic orchestra?

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

WHEN the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO) and the San Miguel Master Chorale (SMCC) went public Thursday and Friday last week, everyone was caught by surprise.

First, the shows weren't announced in the papers and, second, they were strictly invitational. I learned about them only from people working with the orchestra and at the Meralco lobby a few minutes before the concert. (I was able to wangle an invitation.)

The first thing that impressed me about the 85-member orchestra under Julian Quirit was the uniquely clean look of the members as though they went through a rigid sartorial makeover (someone said the one in charge of this was a popular balladeer who is employed by SMPO as consultant for something or the other).

Second, the orchestra moved as one, seemingly in complete harmony with the night's mixed repertoire, the most substantial of which were Shostakovich Festive Overture in C Major, Op. 69; Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Cayabyab's Misa 2000.

The Shostakovich Overture revealed the orchestra's fine qualities: vibrant energy, especially in the wind section; an electrifying sense of rhythm; and an orchestral sound that surpasses anything one heard in the last 10 years (one of the best sounds I had heard from a local orchestra was Mahler's First of the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra under a German conductor some years back).

The Tchaikovsky Fifth Symphony even more reinforced the orchestra's supreme assets: a powerful string section and power-packed wind and percussion components. The night's concert should have ended with this symphony, but it chose to highlight it in the first part to give way to the grand Misa 2000 that showcased the supremacy of the Master Chorale and the string and wind savvy of the orchestra. The Ryan Cayabyab opus elicited a standing ovation in the middle of the program (as any seasoned concertgoer will tell you, anything that follows a number given a standing ovation is already anticlimactic).

FILMMAKER Marilou Diaz-Abaya hugs Namcya two-time first-prize winner Oliver Salonga after the latter's rendition of Chopin's "Scherzo."

TENOR Lemuel de la Cruz (center) after a standing ovation at the Pasig Museum with Pasig City Vice Mayor Lorna A. Bernardo and pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria

KIKO CABUENA

That preview concert should have been arranged in this sequence: Festive Overture, Misa and the Fifth Symphony. But after the standing ovation for Misa, the orchestra meandered into small insignificant pieces (from an orchestral version of "Funiculi, Funicula" to John Williams' "Raiders of the Lost Ark" theme), and I thought, What a total waste of energy! The orchestra peaked in Tchaikovsky's Fifth and the Master Chorale showed it was second to none in the Cayabyab Misa. But after reaching the summit of excellence, the orchestra slowly metamorphosed into a gymnasium entertainer with Gerswhin's "I Got Rhythm" and the soundtrack of "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

But like it or not, the San Miguel Philharmonic under Quirit showed what orchestral excellence is all about. The Master Chorale under Jonathan Velasco defies choral description: It is simply one of the best we've got.

But the people behind SMPO should remember that a symphony orchestra follows a sacred repertoire sequence, and a mere interchange of orchestral pieces can ruin an otherwise praiseworthy performance, unless the orchestra is destined to be background music for the company's commercial products or meant merely to complement the company's basketball team.

But the lingering questions remain: When will it have a decent season? In fact, will it have one at all? Why is everything about the orchestra's operation kept under wraps? Why do the people behind the orchestra, including conductors, beg off from interviews?

Nevertheless, with the San Miguel Philharmonic around, people are likely to compare it with the old, reliable Philippine Philharmonic in terms of sound, repertoire, quality of soloists and conductors and, well, management.

With two major orchestras around, the country's music lovers will now have a choice.

* * *

The formal opening concert of the First Pasig Summer Music Festival, featuring tenor Lemuel de la Cruz with guest soprano Rachelle Gerodias and pianists Najib Ismail and Oliver Salonga, ended in an unprecedented standing ovation led by filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya, actor Ronnie Lazaro and Pasig Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo.

DRAMATIC appearance at the Pasig Museum: tenor Mamerto Villaba and 92-year-old Maestra Mercedes Matias Santiago, the first Filipina to sing the Donizetti opera, "Lucia di Lammermoor."

PHOTO: KIKO CABUENA

The festival, a tribute to Pasig's foremost tenor Octavio Cruz, also merited a dramatic appearance of the 92-year-old Mercedes Matias Santiago, who is the only surviving member of the triumvirate of the country's first operatic divas, the other two being Isang Tapales and Jovita Fuentes.

The Cruz family came en masse and one of them, Rodolfo V. Cruz, reminisced about his tenor father, after which he played an old recording in which the departed tenor was singing an aria from Flotow's "Martha."

For the first time, Pasig's distinguished musical families were seen in one setting with music personalities from different parts of Metro Manila, such as tenor Mamerto Villaba (who was with wife Magdalena), pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria, piano pedagogue Carmencita Arambulo and award-winning film scorer Nonong Buencamino, among others.

What the festival revealed was the emergence of a first-rate tenor in De la Cruz, who received resounding applause from the art song entries to his San Pedro pieces, and on to his Rossini and Cilea arias. The crowd roared after his duet with soprano Gerodias ("O soave fanciulla" from "La Boheme") and after D'Handelot's "Because." A standing ovation—matched with hysterical cheers from the audience—ensued.

The festival audience rediscovered the rare lyrical quality of assisting artist Ismail. On the same score, Namcya two-time first-prize winner Oliver Salonga got his share of adulation, starting with San Pedro's "Aliwan" to Buencamino's "Larawan."

Later, after the reception, Salonga played Chopin's "Scherzo" for filmmaker Diaz-Abaya, and he merited a hug from the director of "Rizal" and "Bagong Buwan." Among those who gave a belated birthday command performance for Diaz-Abaya were pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo and flutist GJ Herman Gomez.

Here and there

The print and broadcast media were trying to outscoop one another in reporting the death of actor Rico Yan. But when Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio died, they hardly broke the

WHY/ p.E3

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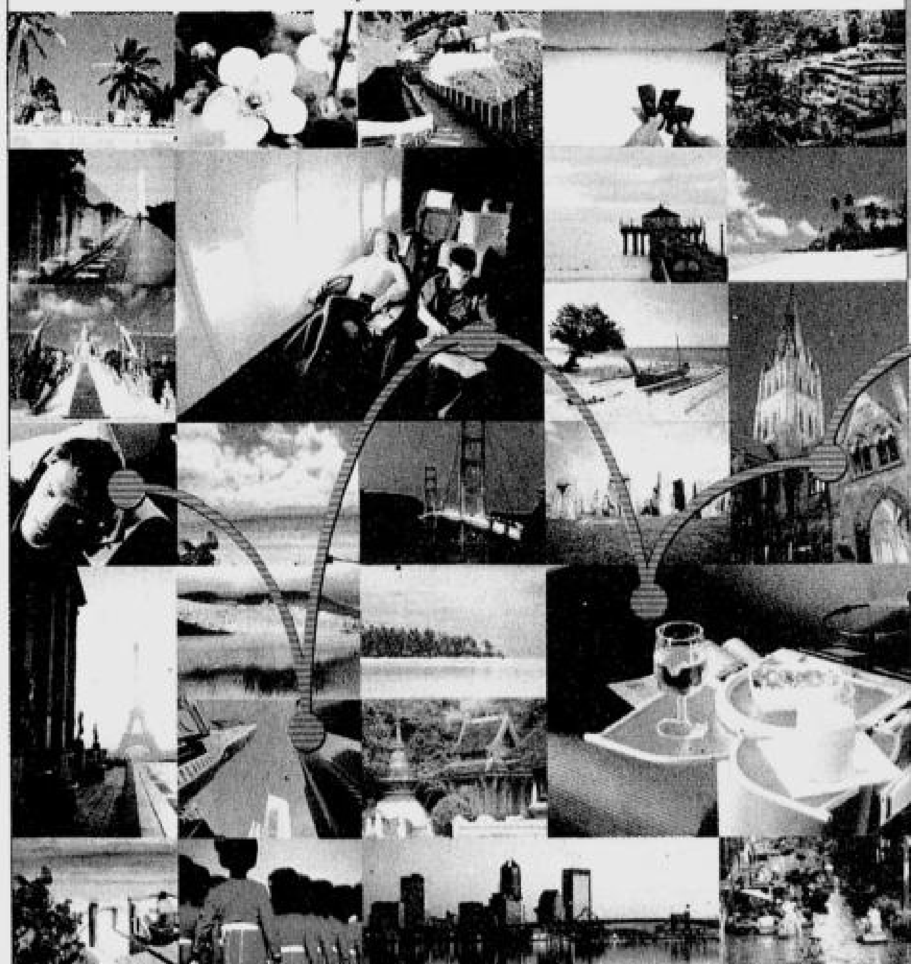

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Why is everything so hush-hush about new philharmonic orchestra?

From page E2

news. If they did, they gave very little insight on the two great artists.

The arts workshops sprouting in Metro Manila this summer should introduce a course on reporting the arts for print and broadcast practitioners. In a country with a population of more than 70 million, it is a wonder that arts writers and broadcasters can be counted by one's fingers.

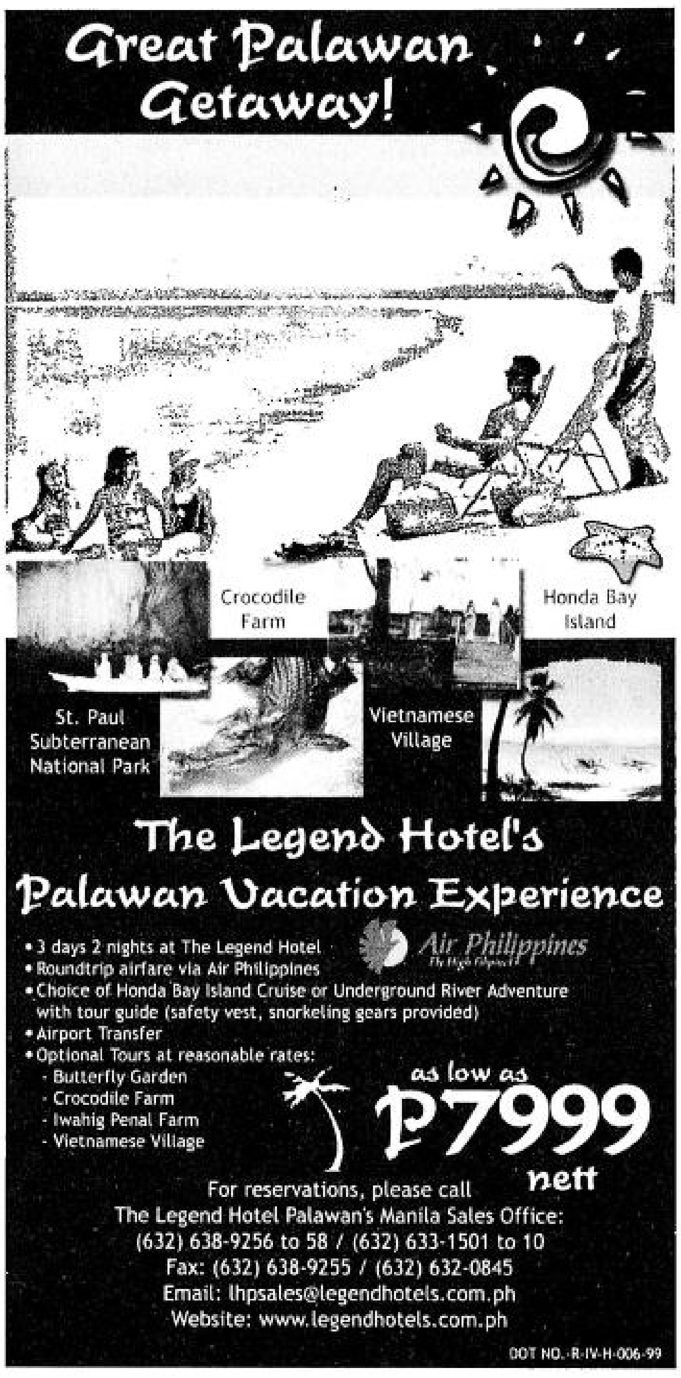
Speaking of Yan, one of the last times we met was at the backstage of the CCP Main Theater during the "Handog" concert where pianist Cecile Licad shared the stage with pop artists. Yan was in awe of Licad after hearing her and backstage. I introduced him to her to his delight. Later, Yan asked me, "How did you know her when she lives in New York and you live in Pasig?"

The last movie star I dragged to a Licad concert was actress Timmy Cruz and after the concert, she told me, "Pablo, I am not a fan of classical music, but that Licad concert was an experience of a lifetime."

After two weeks of concertizing in Taiwan, Nanking and Beijing before the Holy Week, Licad lost most of her income from the concerts and her credit cards to a thief when she took the train from Bonn to Paris with German cellist Alban Gerhardt and his family (it was good her Taiwan fee was remitted directly to her New York account). When she reported the loss of her credit cards, the thief had already gone shopping in a Swiss department store and bought $1,000 worth of goods.

Yes, the country's No. 1 tenor, Otoniel Gonzaga, is still very much active in Europe and elsewhere. He just did "The Gypsy Baron" in Vienna, "Fidelio," "Pagliacci" and "Cavaleria Rusticana" in Graz, as well as Don Jose ("Carmen"), "Turandot" and "Tristan and Isolde." He also wrapped up another "Otello" in Bielefeld. Next month, he sings the lead tenor roles in "Aida" and "Tosca" in Texas. He lost eight performances of "Otello" in Schwerin in Germany after he decided to visit Iloilo to do a concert and accept a doctorate from his alma mater, the Central Philippines University.

Believe it or not, Gonzaga's supreme Otello has been heard in Prague, Japan and Germany. Sadly, Manila is still in the dark as to how the opera sounds in a live performance with a Filipino in the title role.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To come up with this product, 3M engineers lost some screws in their heads.

What will you do if you were asked to fasten 9,600 pounds of mirror on the ceiling of one of the world's biggest airport without using metal fasteners? Why should you even think about it? Well, you're right. You have more pressing concerns to worry about than mirrors on ceilings and metal fasteners.

Makes sense. Until you realize that the things you worry about are the same things that hound 3M engineers. Yes, aside from kids, mortgage payments, the laundry and their weight, they also have to worry about making a better world for you.

Big deal. You worry about global injustice and oppression.

Point taken. But 3M engineers want a better world in a more, let's just say utilitarian way.

Take your office, for example. Doesn't it give you that feeling that you've come a long way? That you're a self-made man? What with all the glass and sleek design? Your office reflects your character, after all. Fact is, who wouldn't want to be seen working in an avant garde office?

This is why 3M engineers practically tear their brains apart thinking of new ways of building things. Which brings us back to the topic of screws. Or rather, lost screws.

They thought, if they could only find something that will replace any form of metal fasteners, the architectural design envelope can be pushed much further. You will have better looking offices. You'll feel good at work. You'll be less stressed out. You can do more and perhaps get a raise. You won't have to worry anymore about mortgage payments. See the point? Good.

Thanks to these modern day alchemists, they have come up with 3M VHB (Very High Bond) Tape. Sounds very ordinary. That is until you learn just what this miracle tape can do.

You can secure the glass facade of a building with this tape. Chicago O'Hare International airport used it to fasten glass mirrors on its ceiling. All 9,600 pounds of it. Industrial glue is child's play compared to 3M VHB. (Come to think of it, nothing compares to 3M VHB.)

Fasten metal to metal, metal to glass, metal to plastic. Only a second rate architect wouldn't be able to grasp 3M VHB's design potential. It's heat, cold, moisture, solvent and UV light resistant.

Okay, so much for the halleluja's. The bottomline is, 3M VHB is just one of hundreds of 3M innovations. 3M has been innovating even before the word innovation became a chic battlecry for 21st century companies. Innovation has been 3M's mantra for the last 100 years.

If you haven't noticed the tiny but significant improvements in your daily life, that just shows how 3M products are working. They make your life better without actually changing the way you live.

So while you may still have to worry about the kids, the mortgage payments the laundry and your weight for as long as you live, take time to think about the little things that make a difference. **3M did**

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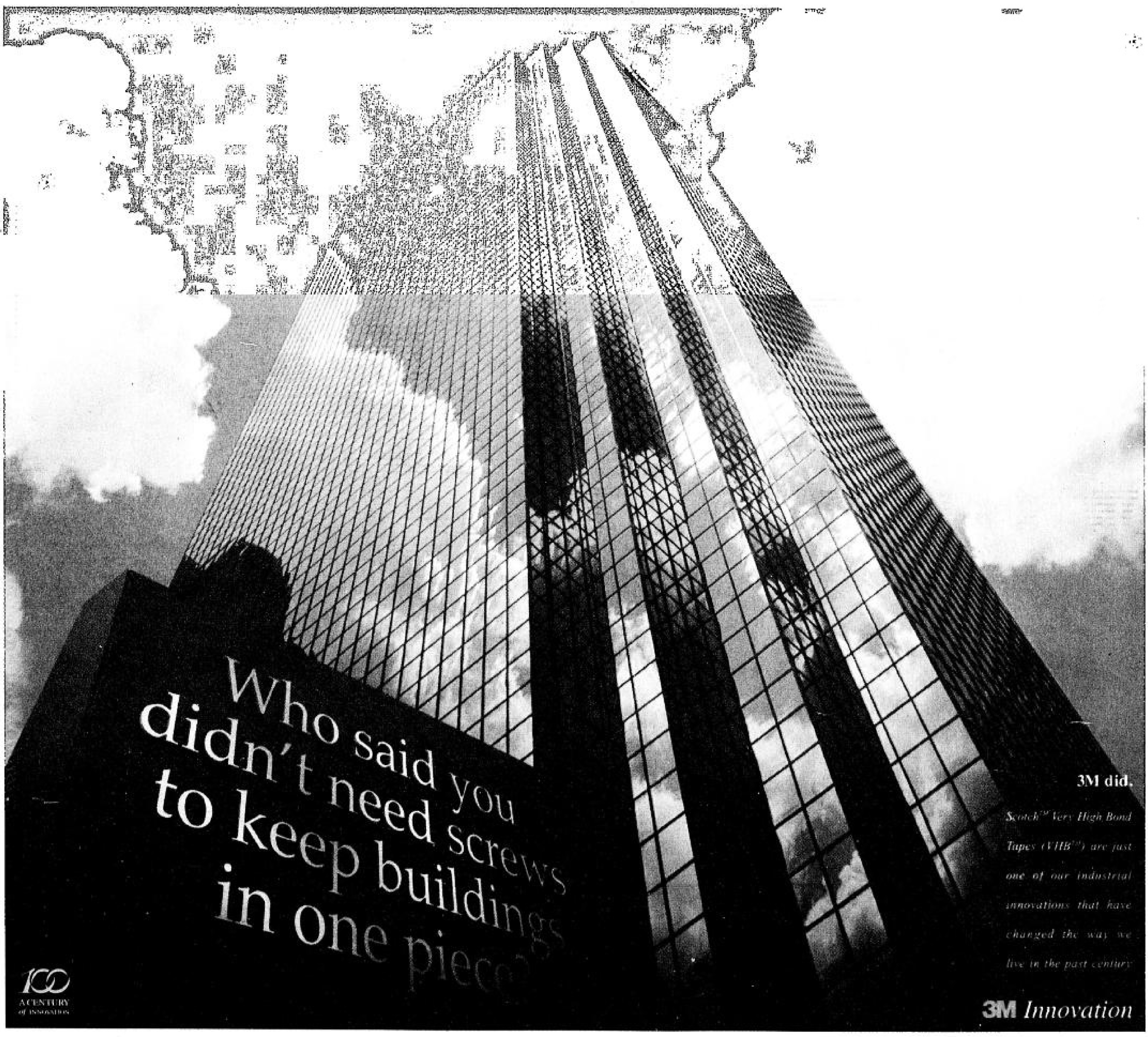

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100 A CENTURY of INNOVATION

Fernando Poe Jr. to receive critics' prize

From page E1

nahan sisters of movie cosmetic artists.

In recognizing Poe (Ronald Allan Kelley Poe in real life), the Manunuri pays tribute to his nearly 50-year career as an actor, director and producer. Starting as a teenage star and a stuntman in the 1950s, Poe rose to become a defining presence in Philippine movies. In 1956, he starred in "Low Waist Gang," signaling a shift from the fantasy movies that had become the main fare in local cinema to a gritty realism in action movies.

In his next movies such as "Tough Guy" (1957) and "Kamay ni Cain" (1957) and, much later, "Mga Alabok sa Lupa" (1967), "Asedillo" (1971) and "Durugin si Totoy Bato" (1979), Poe perfected the Filipino paragon of the action hero—a peace-loving, sensitive man who is pushed to the wall by oppressive forces and thereby fights back in the defense of the poor and the abused.

FERNANDO Poe Jr., movie icon

Today Poe is known as the king of Philippine action movies and one of the stalwarts of the local film industry.

The Manunuri is also giving the award in recognition of Poe's achievements as a producer and director. A visionary businessman and an artist in his own right, Poe invested his earnings from acting and built his own movie company, FPJ Productions, which has since established a steady record of well-mounted productions that have reaped commercial success.

As "Ronwaldo Reyes," his nom de guerre as director, Poe has shown a nearly unerring film sense, transforming mass-based but sometimes crude materials like the *komiks* and popular legends to movies with their own sense of logic and breathtaking spectacle.

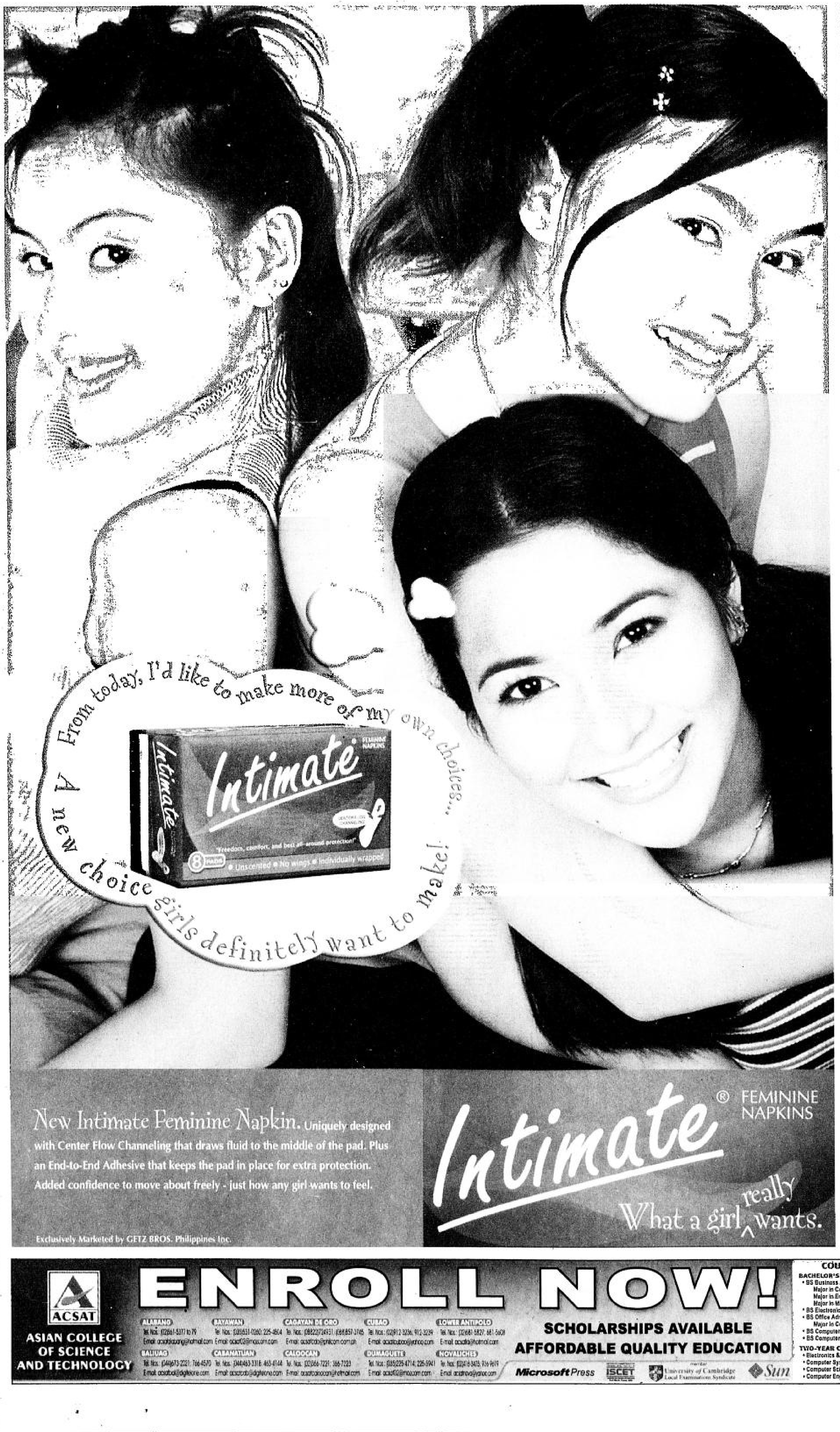
Poe as director is a master of locale, color and magic. He chooses his settings carefully and train's a nearly perfect cinematographic eye on everything he frames. His "Panday" series, based on the tawdry Carlo J. Caparas *komiks* novel, is an awesome orchestration of spectacle, setting and special effects.

His more recent movies such as the comedy "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko" and the action drama "Ang Dalubhasa" show Poe hasn't lost his touch, retaining an uncanny feeling for the popular taste.

The Gawad Urian will be produced by Tape Inc. and will be seen on television. The best picture nominees are "La Vida Rosa" (Star Cinema), "Batang West Side" (JCMC Films), "Hubog" (MACQ/ Regal Films), "Minsan May Isang Puso" (Regal) and "Live Show" (Regal).

The Manunuri is chaired by Mario Hernando, Sunday Malaya editor, member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and UST lecturer. Vice chair is Gigi Javier-Alfonso of the UP College of Mass Communication.

Members are Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, broadcast personality Butch Francisco, former MTRCB chair and CCP artistic director Nicanor Tiongson, UP-CMC Dean Ellen Paglinauan, UP-CMC professor Rolando Tolentino, De La Salle University Department of Communications chair Bro. Mike Rapatan and INQUIRER editor and UST professor Lito Zulueta.



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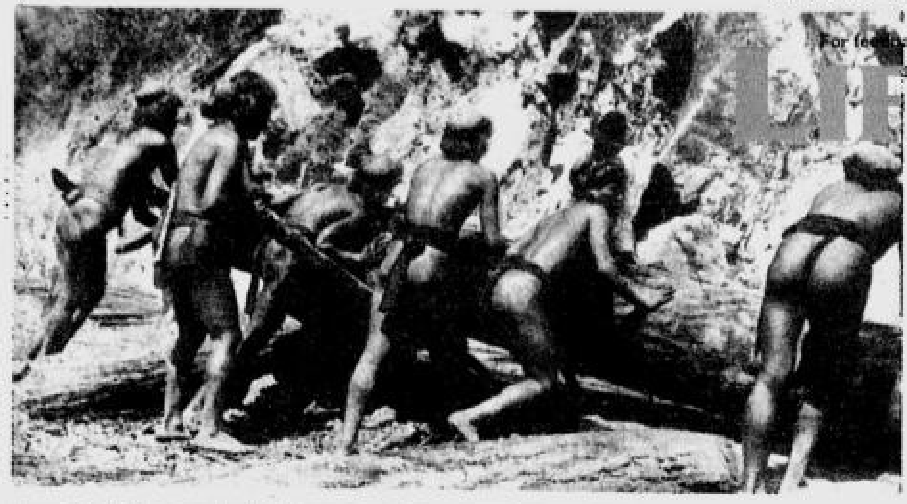
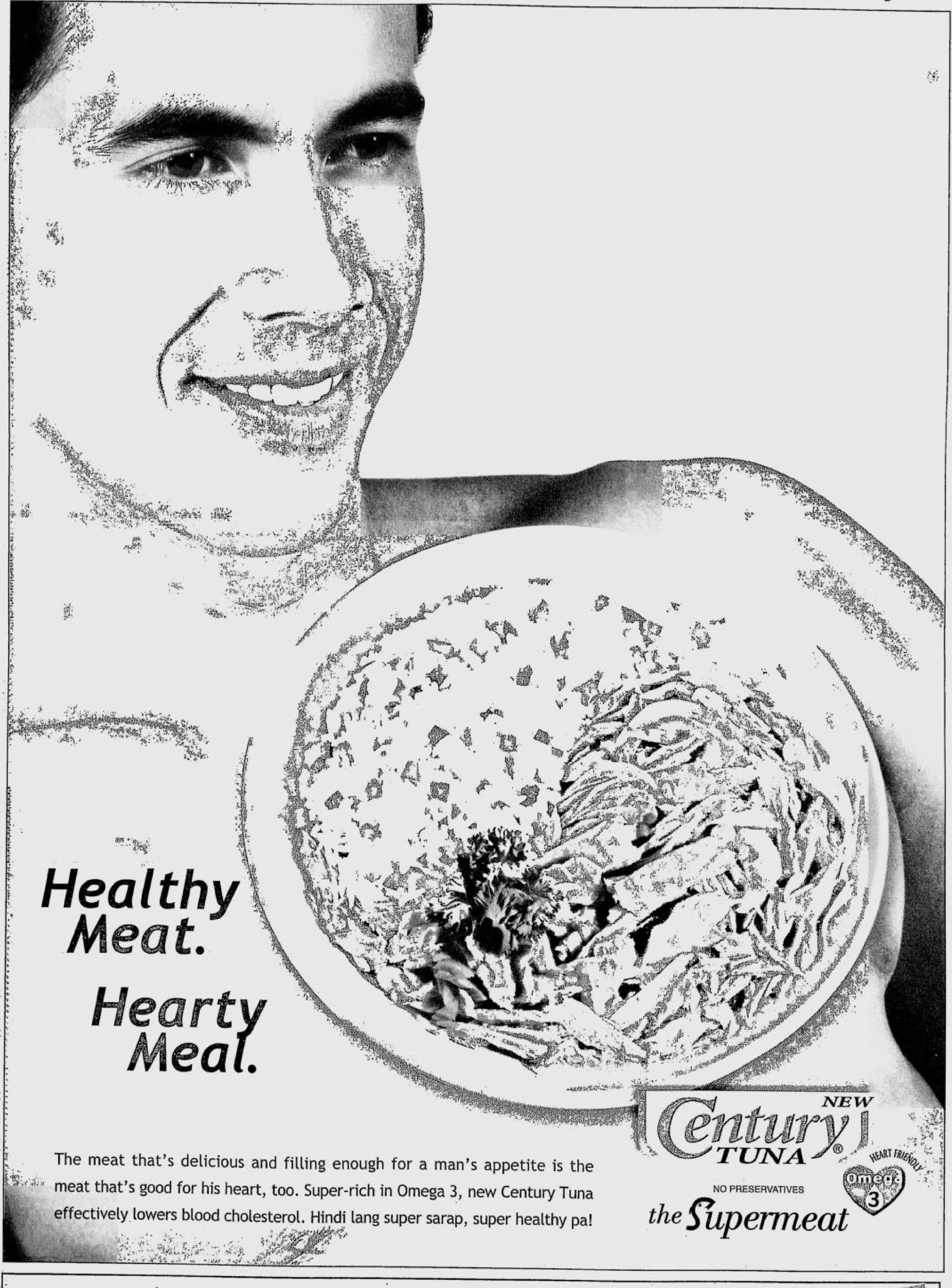


IFUGAO men roll a log on Benguet Road.

Postcards from Baguio

The 'City of Pines' unique history and distinctive appearance before World War II make it an ideal subject for postcard collecting

Story on page F2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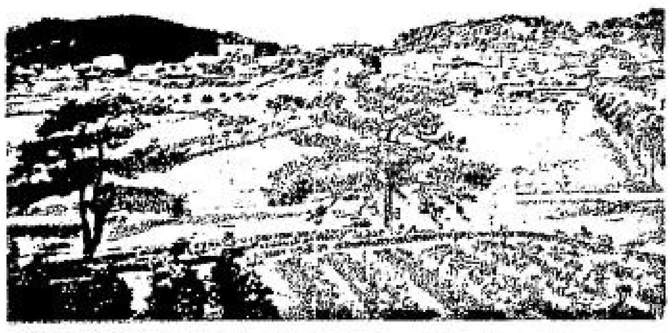
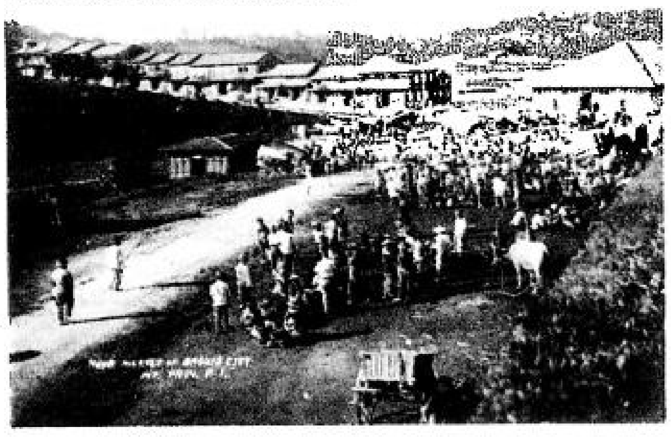
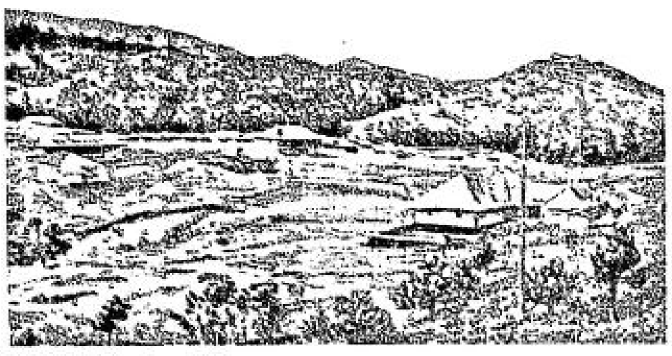


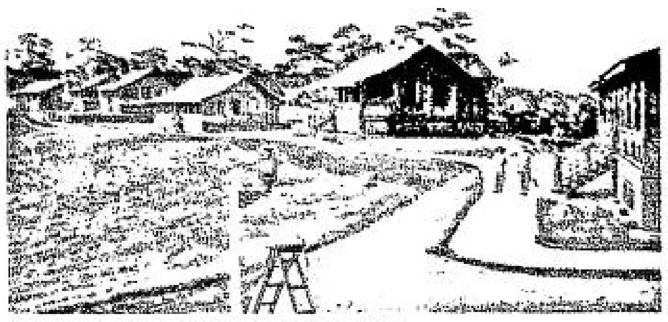
BURNHAM Park and Baguio, 1929



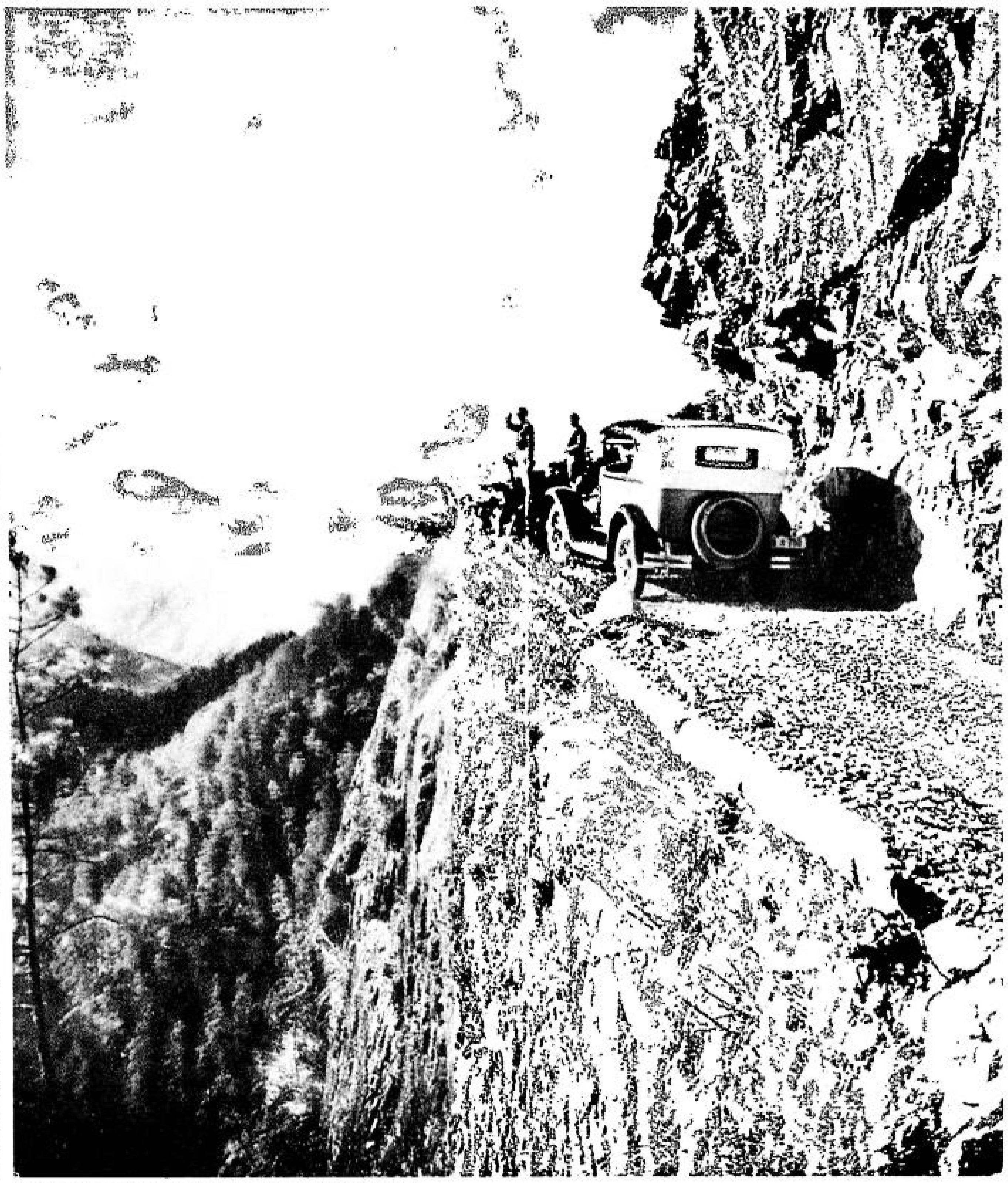
VIEW of Session Road and market, about 1920



VIEW of Baguio, 1907



ROW of cabins at Camp John Hay, 1910



SPECTACULAR view from Benguet Road in the 1920s

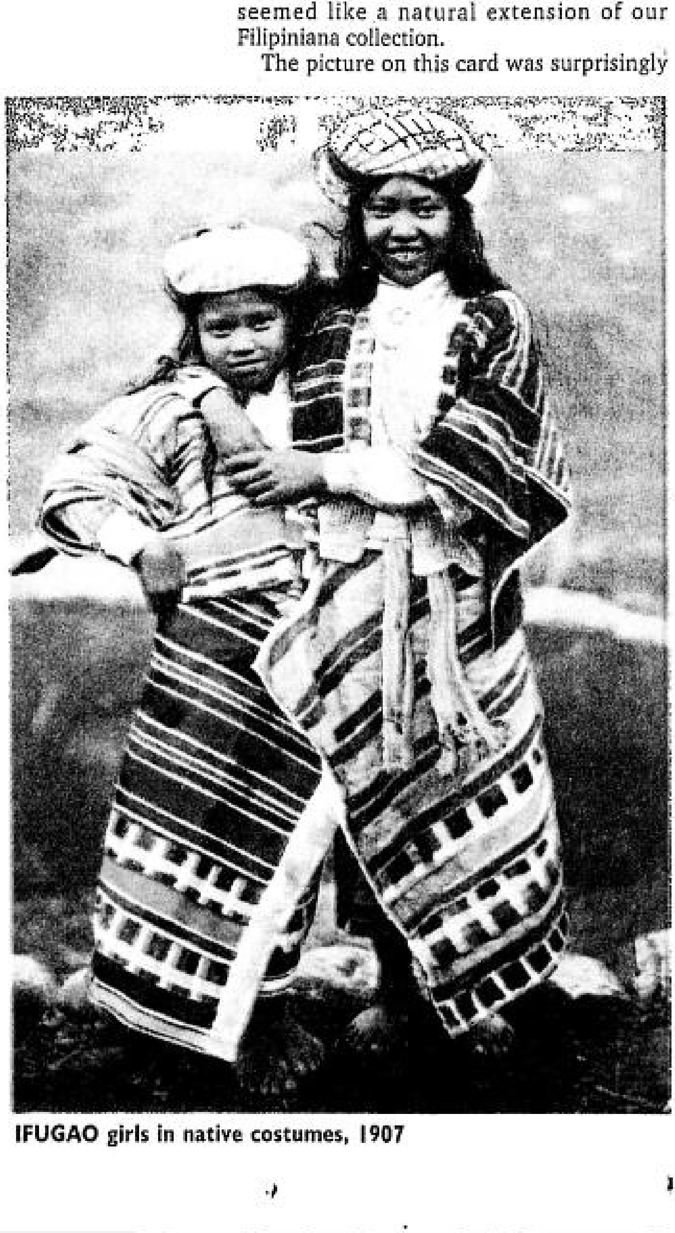
Postcards from Baguio

By Jonathan Best
Contributor

THE FIRST antique postcard of the Philippines I bought was a handcolored picture of Ifugao men working on the construction of the Benguet Road under the Americans. It was published in 1917 by the Mission of Mary the Virgin in Sagada and printed by a printing press on Bleeker Street in New York City, just around the corner from where I was living at the time.

I found the card in a used bookshop in New York in mid-1979, soon after I returned from my first trip to the Philippines and visit to Baguio. My partner John Silva and I had been collecting rare and out-of-print books and prints of the Philippines for a couple of years; old photographs and picture postcards seemed like a natural extension of our Filipiniana collection.

The picture on this card was surprisingly sexy, considering the presumably pious institution which published it. Six swarthy young men with long hair are depicted, practically naked except for narrow g-strings, and small round Ifugao bachelor hats pinned tightly to the back of their heads. Each man is bent over a huge pine log, which together they are rolling across a mountain road.



IFUGAO girls in native costumes, 1907

They present a handsome tableau of finely muscled male backsides happily exposed to the sunshine and fresh air of the Mountain Province. Not the type of image one would have expected from a convent souvenir shop, or was it? My scholarly curiosity in Philippine postcards was immediately sparked.

Twenty-three years latter my collection has grown to over 3,000 postcards of the Philippines, and I have written two books on the subject, and I am still collecting. I now try to limit new acquisitions to narrowly defined subjects and specific types of postcards and unique photographs.

I find postcards of Baguio and Mountain Province printed during the American era the most intriguing, and I still go out of my way to acquire them. Sharply focused photographs of historic subjects or interesting people and artifacts are my favorites.

Baguio subject matter usually fits into three distinct categories. There are ethnographic studies of the people, views of the landscape and architecture, and tourist snapshots of Americans or Filipinos on vacation. Sometimes all three come together in a single image.

Pasture

Until the turn of the last century, the site which now contains the city of Baguio was sparsely populated pastureland. A few Igorot families used the area for their cattle and subsistence farming.

The Spanish military had built a small sanitarium and garrison there late in the 19th century, but were never able to exploit the gold mines in the region or make peace with the independent-minded local communities.

When the American colonial administrators arrived in 1898, they decided to build an all-weather road into the mountains, develop the economy and establish a vacation city and summer capital. Quantities of American dollars succeeded where Spanish regiments had failed.

Baguio's great attraction for the Americans was its cool mountain climate, which was the perfect antidote for those suffering from heat exhaustion and other tropical ailments.

The initial City of Baguio was laid out and built in a relatively short time, less than 20 years, and all phases of this development were carefully photographed and illustrated in books, tourist guides and on picture postcards. The earliest photographs, taken soon after 1900, show open pastureland with only a few buildings popping up here and there, and very few pine trees.

On early cards, one can see the outline of an almost treeless Burnham Park with its boating lagoon and fountain, magically lit at night with colorful electric lights. The Sunday Market, the first row of stores on Session Road, and the impressive Central School building were popular subjects for postcards. The school appears with the original half-timbered City Hall rising on the hill near by.

Subsequent cards show the city as it spread out around Burnham Park, around the Sunday Market area and up Session Road to St. Louis Cathedral on the hill. Many of the buildings followed the distinctly American style of wooden architecture popular in New England summer resorts at that time.

White clapboard cottages with painted green roofs and trim, topped-off-by-fieldstone chimneys was the style for vacation homes. Wealthy Filipino families like the Roceses constructed spacious half-timber and stucco mansions with gabled roofs surrounded by rose gardens and pine trees.

The neoclassical Baguio Central School looked just like an American public school, and the twin spires of the St. Louis Cathedral adapted the Gothic Revival style so popular in the Northeastern United States in the late 19th century.

The city's unique history and distinctive appearance before World War II makes it an ideal subject for postcard collecting. It was carefully laid out in 1904 by the American architect and city planner Daniel Burnham, and grew rapidly just as tourism, handheld cameras and postcards were becoming universally popular. Each stage of the city's development was carefully photographed.

Anthropologists like Dean Worcester and Bureau of Science photographer Charles Martin wanted to document Cordillera tribal communities before they were assimilated into the majority culture. Filipino and foreign tourists liked these exotic images as souvenirs of their adventures on the fringes of "civilization." This naturally led to sensationalism and a lurid interest in headhunting, dog-eating, women with bare breasts and handsome young men with bulging g-strings.

Filipino-American writer Carlos Bulosan has amusingly recounted his childhood adventures in Baguio with libidinous American matrons armed with prying cameras.

Selling points

Many photographs were also produced to show off Baguio's greatest selling points: its natural beauty, its climate and modern infrastructure. These images include views of the mountains, resort hotels, the parks, Mansion House, Session Road, Camp John Hay, the famous Baguio Sunday Market and the new Philippine Military Academy.

The original plan for Baguio included vacation accommodations for the national government, a summer camp for teachers, and a rest and recreation reservation for the American military. Postcards of all these attractions were bought by tourists and visiting teachers, soldiers and Philippine government officials on holiday.

AMERICAN tourist boy at Mountain Studio

In March 1923, the Americans produced a beautiful series of aerial views of the city from a hot-air balloon. These show the parks and roadways intelligently following the natural contours of the hills and valleys and the verdant growth of newly planted pine trees.

Sadly, Baguio was devastated by American carpet bombing at the end of World War II, even after Manila and most of the Philippines had been liberated from the Japanese. The widespread destruction was captured by the photographers of the Army Signal Corps and is a tragic epilogue to the first phase of Baguio's growth, which was started by the Americans.

The city has, of course, rebounded and grown geometrically since the war and national independence. However, the unique convergence of American colonial resort culture, ethnic hill tribes and affluent Filipino families has gone forever.

Over 150 postcards and photographs of Baguio from Jonathan Best's collection will be on display at the Lopez Memorial Museum in the Benpres Building, Ortigas Center, May 3-July 13. Call 631-2417.

DENR, McDonald's and Church connive to destroy Batangas heritage church

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

MANY times we really don't recognize a good thing until we've lost it. With our built heritage, once it is gone, it can never be replaced. This is a tired line, but proving the cliché true, more and more of our heritage is going these days.

Our built heritage becomes more fragile by the day. More threatened by man rather than nature, our heritage is not going because of causes bigger than we are. In most cases, we are the ones responsible for taking our heritage away.

In Balayan, Batangas, McDonald's is building an outlet in the front yard of the church facing the town's main plaza. A public outcry brought about the issuance of a cease and desist order because the church had been declared by the National Historical Institute as a historic site. Since then, the National Museum, with the cooperation of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), had declared Balayan Church as one of 26 churches considered as National Treasures.

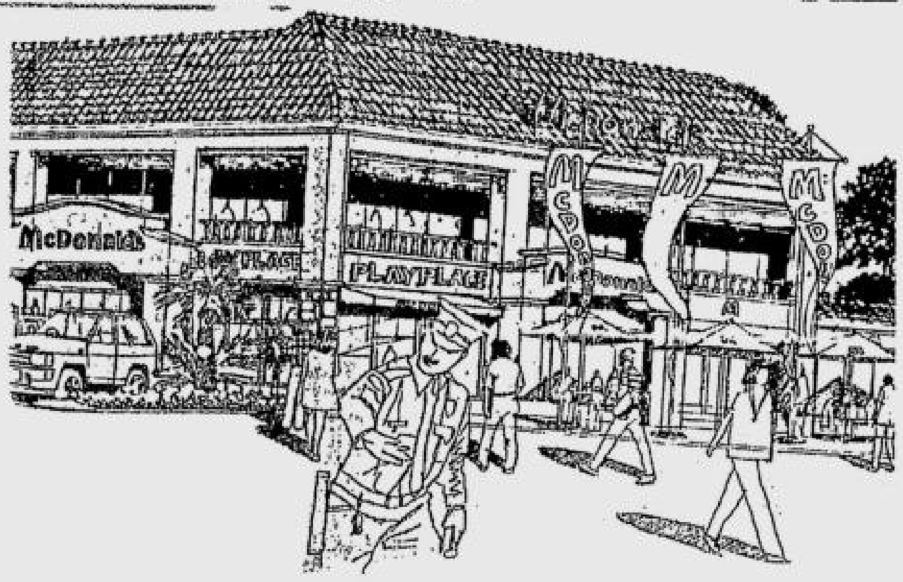
. Last Easter Monday, construction resumed after the Department of Natural Resources and Environment issued an environmental clearance certificate (ECC). The order basically parroted the McDonald's atrocious claim that the "church grounds on which Balayan Church rests is not considered part of the historical landmark designation covered by the appropriate Presidential Decrees and Republic Acts." It continues to say that on those grounds, the Catholic Diocese of Batangas and McDonald's have the right to convert church property into commercial use.

The NHI countered with a letter to DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez, informing him that "the Institute [NHI] is opposed to (the) construction on the grounds of Balayan Church," suggesting that the McDonald's structure be erected elsewhere in Balayan.

Furthermore, the NHI expressed "surprise[d] that DENR has presumed to interpret the protection of the historical site and confined it to the church and not the grounds. We wish to inform you that the sense of the NHI Board is that historic structures cannot and should not be separated from their setting. We believe that the NHI, not the DENR, determines the expanse of the property that is considered historical."

International conservation charters (Unesco World Heritage Convention, Icomos Charter of Venice, Burra Charter of Australia, and others) are specific in saying that the setting of a historical monument must be preserved. Sight lines to the monument should be preserved, not covered by constructions. Therefore, buffer zones are required around monuments to assure that the public view of the monument is safeguarded.

A HIGHWAY to be constructed through the center of Carcar in Cebu threatens the row of heritage houses along the main street of the town.



A MCDONALD'S outlet that could look something like this is rising on the front lawn of the Balayan Church. It will completely block the view of the historic structure which has been declared a National Treasure by the National Museum.

Cebu gov't and DPWH conspire to demolish historic Carcar

Crooked idea

Sometimes the shortest distance between two points is not a straight line. Following the straight-line rationale, the main street of the heritage town of Carcar in southern Cebu is to be widened to accommodate a highway that is to run directly through the center of the town, notwithstanding that Carcar is one of the last historic towns remaining in the province.

You could say that it is the Vigan of Cebu. The town and its architecture are that good, and surprisingly very well preserved.

The Cebu provincial government and the Department of Public Works and Highway straight-line logic demands that the highway takes prime importance, and everyone agrees that it is, indeed, of prime importance. It makes getting to Carcar and the rest of southern Cebu easier. Therefore, its construction takes priority over the century-old *bahay na bato*, that line both sides of the main Carcar street, that must be demolished for the highway pass.

Before allowing the town's most prominent row of *bahay na bato* to give way to asphalt, it is important to know what Carcar was, what it still is today, and how it is the last surviving example of the American-era economic boom that took place in southern Cebu.

The economic boom in the late part of the 19th century lasting through the 1920s was the result of an agricultural windfall that established Carcar as the premier trading center for the southwestern part of the province. One of the more lasting effects was the establishment of Carcar as an educational center for southwestern Cebu. St. Catherine's Academy precedes its sister institution, St.

DENR/ p.F6

Church conservation gets big boost

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute announces that the American Express, through the World Monuments Watch (WMW), has given the second part of its financial support in the amount of $10,000 for the San Sebastian Church Conservation Project.

The church was included in the WMW's 1998 List of the 100 Most Endangered Monuments. The initial amount of $10,000 in 1998 funded the scientific material studies and the waterproofing of the landmark's steel drum.

Initial conservation measures addressed the corrosion problem attributed to the long-standing rainwater infiltration. In 2001, the Parish of San Sebastian spent P2.9 million for the substantial completion of the other phases of the conservation work program. With the additional financial support from the WMW, the collaborative conservation project is expected to be completed this year.

Abstractionists at Art Center

THE 4TH Level Modern Art Group composed of Jojo Austria, Art Bermido, Lindsey James Lee, Jeps Belen and Andrew Carter Tee will open their exhibit, "Total Abstraction," at the Art Center (4/L SM Megamall) at 6 p.m. on April 24.

The four artists, all trained at the University of Santo Tomas, have called themselves such because of frequent artistic excursions to the fourth level of SM Megamall where the gallery row is located.

Their new show expresses their "absolute perception of what life and reality are."

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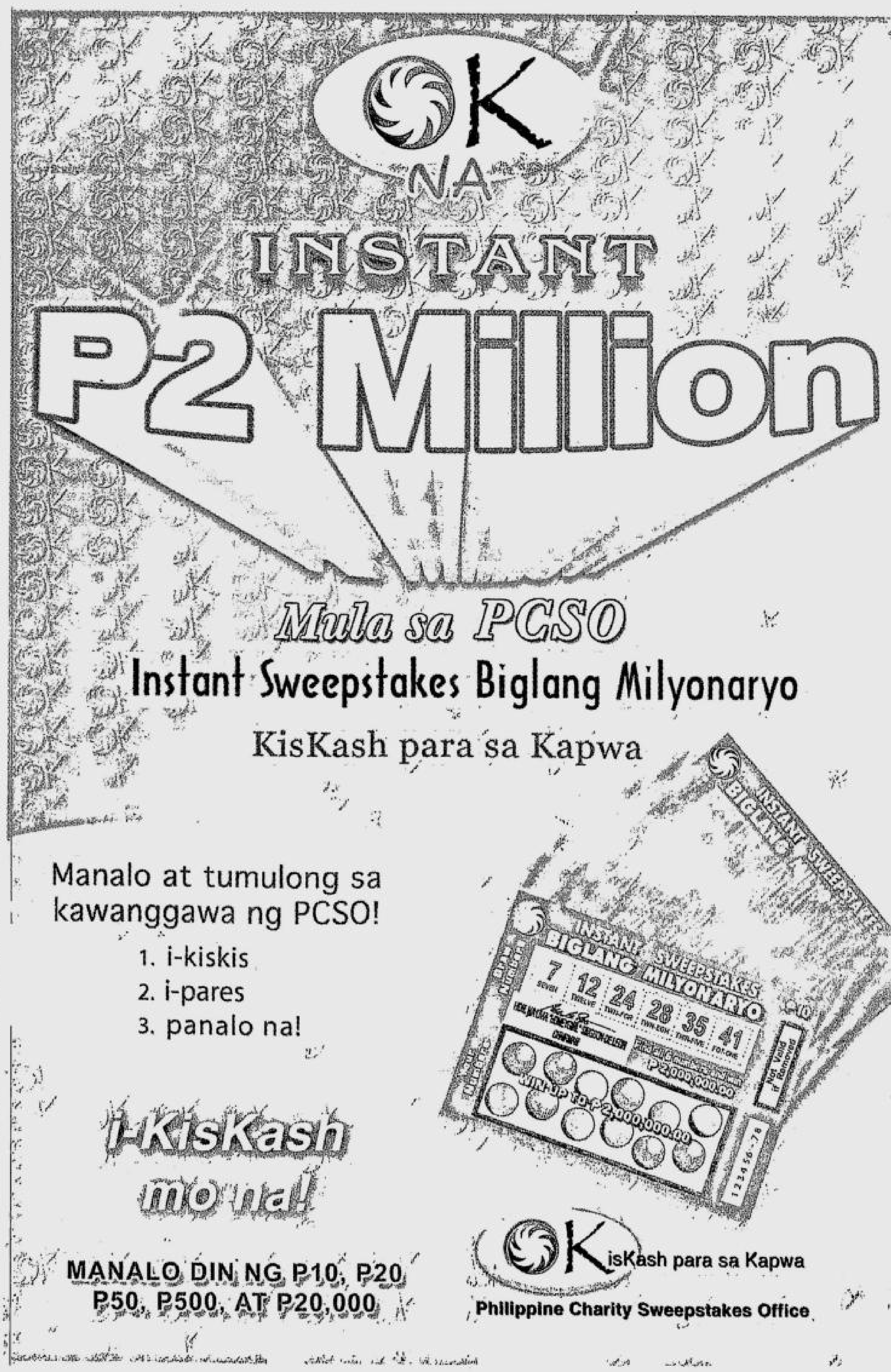
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ART TART

Death and the madam

These days, sweetie, you're either dead or just a Barretto

WHOEVER said that white is the new black should be lying in some plywood coffin by now in Arlington (the one on Araneta Avenue, not in the United States). White is not the new black. Black is the new black. No, death is the new black. Die now and you're the talk of the ladies who lunch, you inspire **Kris Aquino** to say "I love you" to anyone every chance she gets, and you get **Rosanna Roces** to shut up. Honey, if you're planning to go, this is the best time to make that trip.

Dying is so chic right now even I want to die. These days, sweetie, you're either dead or just a Barretto. Either way you get the same media mileage. But if you want a Meldy to give you her attention, dying is the more informed option.

Ms **Marcos** was there at the ceremony for maestro **Lucio San Pedro**. She alighted from her posh car that carried her initials IRM for an ID plate. No black umbrellas anymore, just a mini Makati Med trailing behind the day's vehicle of choice. It was an entrance louder than the media coverage of the National Artist's death. When Madam decides to go, however she does it, it will certainly be a standard to which all other high-profile *despedidas* must measure up. Tall order, that one.

What is it about death that makes you think about, you know, life? What have I done in my life? What will I be remembered for? I haven't even won a Palanca or been invited to the awards ceremony. Which is a drag since I heard it's always drink-all-you-can. I can neither draw nor paint, and in my rare attempts I always end up with the exact same replica of that year's cover of the yellow pages. Except my farmers and fishermen have really ripped abdomens that match their ripped *camisa chinos*. I wanted to be a patroness of the arts, but I made the mistake of buying my first piece from Peck Piñon in SM City.

"Never leave an old woman alone with her thoughts," **Lauren Bacall** once said in a movie. So hysterically depressed was Art Tart that I went to **Roberto Chabet**'s opening at the Megamall to be around people. I got more depressed. Two major installations in two neighboring galleries: West and Duemila. And the art? Black, black, black! At West, a whole wall was painted black and on the foreground a black banca is overturned. At Duemila, a whole wall of clipboards each securing a sheet of photographic paper in solid black.

Is Chabet a visionary? It was the day of the marathon coverage of **Rico Yan**'s funeral and already, by 6 p.m., the artist told us that even death is a double-feature event! Or a double-venue party. With too many people in black. Or something. I really should stop downing my Valium with red wine.

Al Quinn at Home Zone, tea setups at Inter-Con

VISUAL ARTS

TELEVISION director and visual artist Al Quinn takes a respite from oil paintings and sketches and dabbles in mixed media in "Quintessential Flow" at Home Zome, 3/L Glorietta 4, Makati City. Using water, driftwood and seashells, the veteran director presents 37 variations on natural land and seascape. Call 931-2546.

AVELLANA AT INTER-CON. Curated by Albert Avellana, "Celebrities-Tea for Two" is a unique exhibit featuring the favorite tea setups of top personalities with paintings complements on April 25, 3 p.m., at the Art Café, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. Call 815-9711 local 231 and 233.

BAMBAO AT UP VARGAS MUSEUM. Nineteen-year-old Nicolette Bambao, a third-year management student of the University of Asia & the Pacific and two-time "PLDT On-the-Spot Painting" first place winner, is holding her first one-woman show until May 8 at The Lobby, UP Vargas Museum. Call 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7407.

BADON AT SURREALA CAFÉ. Expressionist painter Phillip B. Badon holds his 21st one-man show at the Surreala Café, Mother Ignacia corner Timog Avenues, QC. In "Guts and Glory," Badon features his latest works in various art media. Guest artists are Thelma Llorico, Emmanuel de la Cruz and Efren Equiron. Frank Abueva, Edna Chua, Armand Ng, Cecil Quintos and Luis Torres are guests of honor. The exhibit is sponsored by Surreala Café, Asia Cargo, Container Line and Armand Ng.

TRAVELING SHOW. The UP Vargas Museum will host "Endramada," a traveling show of recent artworks by 13 Angono artists. Participating artists are Allan Alcantara, Riovic Acallar, Aaron Bautista, Michael de Guzman, Michael Dujua, Carlos Francisco II, Norberto Lugtu, Zarah Jane Miranda-Merced, Katrina

AL/p.F5

AL QUINN exhibits mixed media works at Home Zone.

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People often say that the youth are the hope of tomorrow.

But we believe otherwise. It presupposes that the youth are doing nothing at present and are useless members of society until they grow up. But that is hardly the case. The youth are very active citizens today, willing and able to contribute meaningfully to the nation. The youth are heroes today, brimming with the idealism and energy that sparks changes in society.

The winners of the search are true models for their peers, exemplifying strong values, character, and commitment to excellence.

In a knowledge society, people are our greatest resource and any effort to develop this is most welcome. My thanks to Julie's Bakeshop for organizing a venue for our students to show their best. We hope you continue to be our partners in attaining our vision, "Bawat Graduate, Bayani at Marangal."

Mabuhay!

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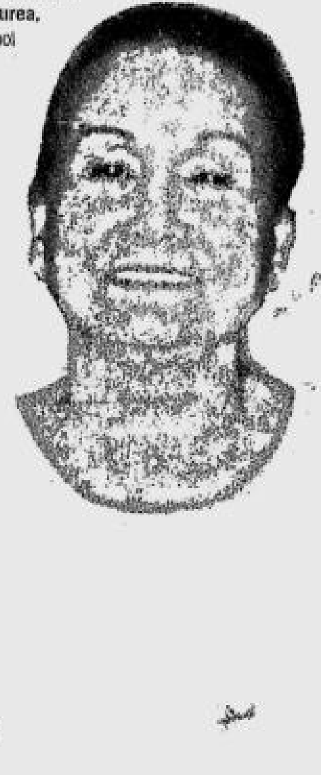
NORTHERN MINDANAO: **Bena Sofia A. Logramonte,** San Agustin Institute of Technology Grade School Dept. • **Cheane Larosa,** Infant Jesus School of Bukidnon • **Donna Faye Agbayani,** First Fruit Academy • **Ramelo S. De-ala,** Valencia City Central School • **Rovik A. Cagasan,** Valencia Baptist School • **Mark Corpuz,** Bukidnon State College Elem. School Laboratory • **Soraya Laut,** San Isidro College Grade School • **Josette Ann C. Baconguis,** Malaybalay City Central School • **Charish Mae J. So,** South City Central • **Agnes B. Tumulak,** Libertad Central Elem. School • **Johanna Rae Aika D. Acapulco,** West Central Elementary School • **Esperanza C. Cruda,** Agao Elem. School • **John Henry E. Pamugas,** Nasipit Central Elementary School • **Loressa Joy S. De Claro,** Butuan Central Elem. School (SPED Center) • **Beverly P. Cagula,** Ongyiu Central Elem. School • **Kris J. Dollisen,** Obrero Elem. School • **Ruby Grace N. Insong,** Cabadbaran South Central Elem. School • **Katrina M. Javier,** North Cabadbaran Central Elem. School • **Meldrin C. Garo,** Kaasinan Elementary School • **Mary Kathleen C. Catap,** Comagascas Elem. School • **Renelein Necosia,** Cabinet Elementary School • **Ian G. Auditor,** Kauswagan Elem. School • **Prelyn P. Sandimas,** Del Pilar Elem. School • **Marjerie O. Apit,** Maon Elementary School • **James Viarice B. Antiporda,** Bading Elem. School • **Ana May dela Peña,** Tolosa Elementary School • **Zeus Rey O. Perez,** J.T. Domingo Central Elementary School • **Lowella Tolo,** Doongan Elementary School • **Ritchi Carla A. Vesagas,** Sindangan Pilot Demonstration School • **Mariel Mitz V. Mopon,** United Parents Learning School • **Greely Jane M. Caylan,** Estaka Elementary School • **Michael A. Eduave,** Consolacion Elementary School • **Aloha Mae B. Tatet,** Bula National School of Fisheries • **Mapette P. Nalangan,** Dadaingas South Central Elementary School • **Jesil Joy B. Cipriano,** Maramag Central Elementary School • **Carmen M Paraguya,** SDA Christian Hope School Inc. • **Merlon Hope Ascabano,** Sta. Lucia Elementary School • **Cathy Mae Gomez,** Pagadian City Pilot School • **Ana Lou Tabamo,** Kolambugan Central Elem. School • **Lota O. Correos,** Tubod Central Elementary School • **Sheery Rose Darangan Plaza,** Maranding Central Elem. School • **Yoradyl P. Lucagbo,** City Central School • **Maria Niña C. Bañares,** West City Central • **Kristine G. Omandam,** Cagayan de Oro College Grade School • **Imafe Tubiano,** Bongbongan Elementary School • **Jessica May G. Gaite,** Iligan City Central School • **Cindy Mai C. Belivestre,** Iligan City East Central School • **Honey Mae Tomapon,** Doña Juana Iluch Memorial Central School • **Melvin A. Campaciño,** Iligan City North School • **Riezsa Mae R. Baguhin,** East Bayugan Elem. School • **Klark Aries A. Ingles,** San Francisco Pilot Elem. School • **Jerame R. Rabago,** Tungkod Elementary School • **Prescila A. Coñado,** St. Vincent De Paul College (Elem. Dept) • **Joie Aseamie Trinidad Flores,** San Nicolas College Grade School Department • **Abigail Aberilla,** Nabunturan Central Elem. School • **Gerra Claire M. Chua,** Ozamis City Central School • **Julie Ann B. Malayo,** Oroquieta City Central School • **Iris Michelle B. Calus,** Poblacion II Elementary School • **Rychenn J. Acapulco,** Baybay Elem. School • **Froland M. Tajate,** Mambajao Central School • **Sanny Jay Betonio,** Mahinog Central School • **Mae Dil Tirariray,** Tupsan Elem. School • **Elexesis L. Mangmang,** Maging Elem. School

SOUTHERN MINDANAO: **Anna Melissa Loren,** Banaybanay Central Elementary School • **Maria Kristeanne Gawka,** Lupon Central Elementary School • **Evan Martinich Augustus Lampayasen,** Makta Central Elementary School • **Noemae E. Lim,** Magsaysay Elementary School • **Roxanne C. Quiñones,** Notre Dame of Kidapawan College • **Albert R. Antipuesto,** Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School • **Genny B. Lee,** Dlangalan Central Elementary School • **Karen Joy B. Mendoza,** M'lang Pilot Elementary School • **Fortunato L. Galabin,** Tumaga Elementary. School • **Jane Bernadette M. Balili,** Notre Dame of Pulo Molo • **Kathy Venzon,** Polomolok Central Elementary. School • **Joylen C. Lumogda,** Ireneo Santiago Elementary School • **Chara Christian Lim,** Gen. San. SPED Integrated School • **Jonaly Laurea,** Wireless Elementary School • **Shane Pajegal,** Magallanes Elementary School



Words are not enough to express how deeply privileged I am to congratulate the awardees of this year's Julie's Bakeshop Leaders for the Future Award.

As Julie's Bakeshop Family grows, we persevere to extend our advocacy of Education to the community. Now on its second year, our search for Leaders for the Future Award continues to recognize the efforts of our outstanding graduates from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao who made it to the top of their class.

I am very pleased to know that the number of our recipients increased from 263 awardees last year to 324 awardees this year.

I have always believed that education is a vital tool in molding the future leaders of this nation. It is also the best wealth we can give to our children. This is our sincere commitment to God and country as embodied in our company's policy. We also share DECS's vision of, "Bawat Graduate, Bayani at Marangal."

May this simple contribution of ours propel you to conquer more challenges, realize greater goals and fulfill bigger dreams.

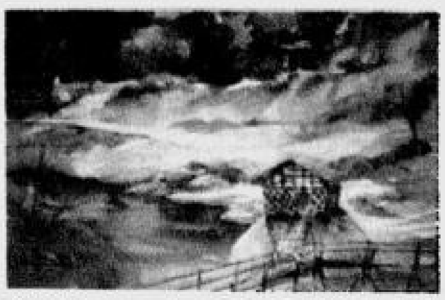
Again congratulations!

Julia R. Gandionco

Julia R. Gandionco,
Founder, Julie's Bakeshop

Julie's
BAKESHOP

n the country.



"WAWA, Montalban," watercolor on paper, is part of "Munting Simula," Nik Masangkay's first solo exhibit at Silahis Arts and Artifacts, 3/F Glorietta 4, Makati City. The exhibit will run until May 17. Call 728-4961 or 527-2113.

Al Quinn at Home Zone, tea set-ups at Intercon

From page F4

Miranda, Paul Greco Miranda, Isidro Santos, Emerson Salmorin and Wire Rommel Tuazon. Focusing on Angono as home and town, the exhibit honors two National Artists, painter Carlos "Botong" Francisco and composer Lucio San Pedro, who died recently, and pays tribute to the town that nurtured creativity. Call 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7407.

GARCIA-DE VERA AT UP. Kalayaan Garcia de Vera brings her first one-woman exhibit, "Freedom," from Toronto to Manila until April 27 at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts.

TORRES AT GALERIE Y. Slim Torres, a practitioner of the Filipino genre tradition, presents "Master of Filipino Genre" until May 2 at 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

GROUP EXHIBIT. An Art Center managed by a nonstock, nonprofit foundation will soon rise in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental to promote art and cultural awareness in the province. The exhibit features works of renowned contemporary Filipino artists like National Artist Arturo Luz, Nunelucio Alvarado, Larry Alcala, Fil dela Cruz, Elmer Borlongan, Fabian dela Rosa, Demetrio Diego, Cenon Rivera, Juvenal Sanso, Dr. Brenda Fajardo, Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Ibarra dela Rosa, Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, Pablo Baens-Santos, Romeo Tabuena, Nona Garcia and Norman Dreo. Call 931-4205.

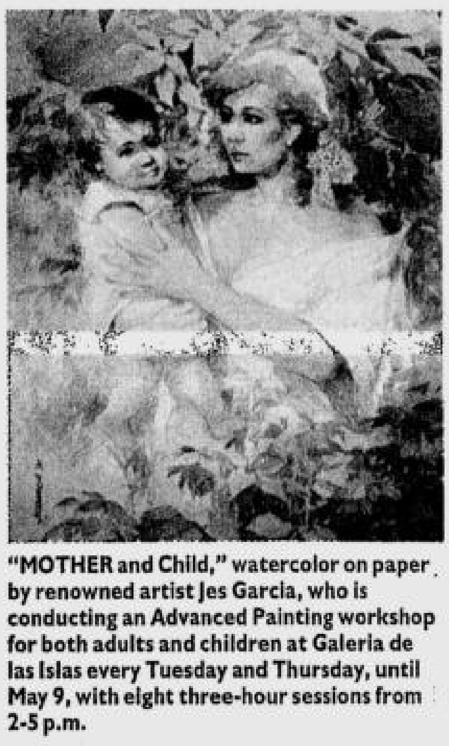
ALICDAN AT LIONGOREN GALLERY. Wilfredo Alicdan presents his sixth solo show, "Paradeisos," consisting of 15 oil paintings. It includes his recent work, "Song for Grace, A Day in Villa Paradeiso," which features his aesthetic deviation in the rendition of colors, texture, forms and symbolic imagery. The show opens on April 24 at the Liongoren Gallery, 111 New York St., Cubao, QC. Call 912-4319/4640.

FAJARDO AND WILLIAMS AT THE MET. Brenda Fajardo and Caroline Williams present their works at "Foundations of Gold," an exhibit of contemporary art and craft by artists all working with gold from six cities of the Asia-Pacific Region, at the Metropolitan Museum, Manila. The exhibit, an initiative of the City of Melbourne, with the Asialink Centre of the University of Melbourne and RMIT Gallery, runs until May 4.

AUSTRALIAN ARTIST AT AUSTRALIA CENTRE. The Australian Centre in Makati City will mount "Antarctica" by Australian artist Stephen Eastaugh from April 23 to June 7. Tony Melville, chargé d'affaires of the Australian Embassy, and Eastaugh will open the exhibition at 6:30 p.m. on April 23. The exhibit will be at the Green House Effect Gallery in the Botanical Gardens, Baguio City, from June 14 to July 14.

JOYA AT AYALA MUSEUM. Thirty-three drawings in various media of the late Jose Joya documenting the people and places he encountered are currently on view at the Front Gallery of the Ayala Museum at the Old Makati Stock Exchange Building on Ayala Avenue. The exhibit will run until April 30. Call 812-1191 to 95 local 103.

PHOTOGRAPHS AT EPSON. Epson Phils. Corp., a leader in digital imaging, launches anew its Photo Gallery exhibit series featuring the multiawarded travel, fashion and advertising photographer, Bien Bautista. The images from Bautista's "Esta Bien" archive CD were reproduced using the Epson Stylus 1290 on A3+ size Epson Matte Paper Heavyweight. The exhibit runs until mid-April at the Epson Square Showroom, 3/L SM Megamall, Building B, Mandaluyong City. Call 843-2106.



"MOTHER and Child," watercolor on paper by renowned artist Jes Garcia, who is conducting an Advanced Painting workshop for both adults and children at Galeria de las Islas every Tuesday and Thursday, until May 9, with eight three-hour sessions from 2-5 p.m.

Of masters and disciples

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

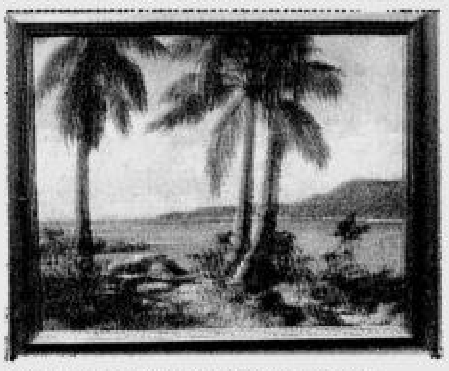
AN EXHIBITION involving 14 artists, many of them celebrated masters as well as a good number of National Artists, and spanning more than a century of Philippine art history, is, regrettably, receiving scant attention from both collectors and aficionados alike.

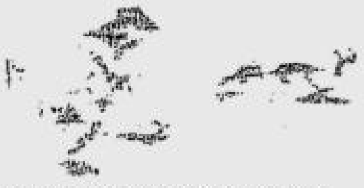
Titled "Small Treasures," the exhibit of small-scale paintings (Galleria Duemila, until April 30) features two generations of Philippine masters, from Juan Luna to H.R. Ocampo. It features the two major traditions in local art history and showcases the transitions in theme, style and visual vocabulary of our artists.

The title, however, is a misnomer since not all of the works can be considered small in size. The biggest piece, Juan Luna's "Mi Modelo Española," an undated oil portrait of a Spanish lady, is certainly not smallish at 60.8 cm x 45 cm—especially when compared to the works of Fabian de la Rosa and Fernando Amorsolo, oil portraits of Maj. Gen. Lonard Wood and President Woodrow Wilson (only one-third of the size of Luna's painting).

Dominating the show are relatively smaller works that exemplify the prewar conservative academic tradition as epitomized by rural genre scenes, such as those by Amorsolo and Isidro Ancheta. Amorsolo towered above his peers and earned a niche in Philippine art when he was posthumously named National Artist in 1973. Ancheta, on the other hand, worked as art teacher at the then Bureau of Education, mass-producing landscapes that endeared him to public-school teachers.

The other half of the exhibit is devoted to the so-called pioneers of the postwar Modernist school, such as H.R. Ocampo, Vicente Manansala, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Cesar Legaspi, Jose Joya, Juvenal Sansò and Malang Santos. This is the group of neorealist painters who continued the legacy left by the late Victorio Edades, acknowledged as the Father of Philippine Modern Art, who was named National Artist in 1976, but is sadly not represented here.


"BEACH in Atimonan" by Fernando Amorsolo, 1927, oil on canvas


"UNTITLED (*Bangkero* with two carabaos)" by Romeo Tabuena, 1968, oil on wood

The show is a good barometer for evaluating the works of artists who are still active today. Take Malang, for instance, who has over two dozen drawings in the show done between 1957-1987 but which cannot be all displayed for lack of space. Malang has, over a 30-year period, stuck to his subjects since the '50s, a vaunted colorist first and foremost.

Sansò, too, has continually pursued the subject of coastal rock formations from way back and has shown no signs of dissipating.

A conversation piece of sorts is the only work of Carlos "Botong" Francisco in the show, "Happy New Year" (1960), a watercolor painting on the subject of New Year revelry, presumably intended as a print advertisement commissioned by a giant soft-drinks company.

Not to be ignored is Cesar Legaspi's "Day Dreams" (1985), a nude presumably intended as a gift, as with a number of the pieces here which even bear dedications by artists to the intended recipients.

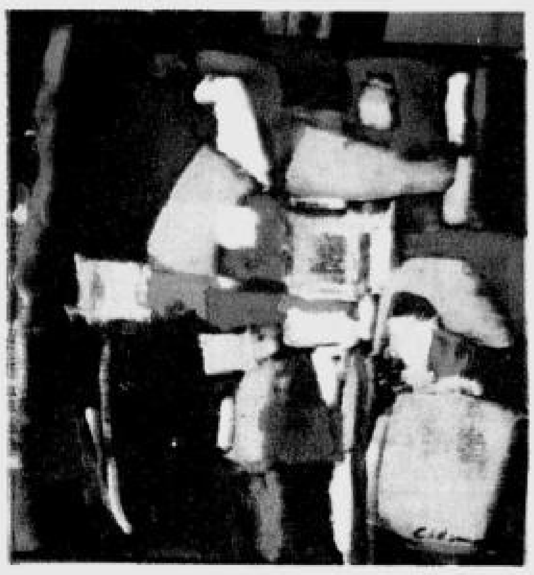
The pieces, as an ensemble, took all of one year to put together, with many having been unloaded by the original owners, given the economic crunch the country is reeling from.

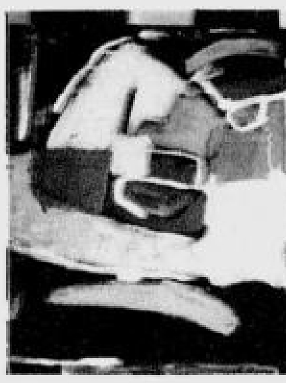
But more than this, the collection of treasures from artists—dead and living, masters and disciples—is a fitting testament to the continually evolving tradition of Philippine art and the directions it has taken in the last half century.

Cid Reyes

Another show, this time, by critic-painter Cid Reyes, called "Tribute to Malang," pays homage to the artist who first encouraged Reyes to return to his first vocation painting. His second show in two years' time, also at Malang's West Gallery, comprises of abstract paintings which hark back to his earlier "Negros" series. The name "Negros" finally found fruition in the dominant use of black to symbolize the landscape of his adopted province.

Unlike his previous show, however, Reyes now uses paper as medium (from canvas) and shows greater ease and fluidity in this plunge into the dark somber period of his peaking-slowly artistic career. In his recent series, Reyes acknowledges his debt to Malang, clearly discernible in his choice of hues and forms that have taken a solid weight of their own.


"NEGROS" by Cid Reyes


A HOST of bright, generous colors

Indeed, Reyes uses a host of bright, generous colors—pure reds, blues, greens and ochres—against black backgrounds, and with contrasting areas of tension and relaxation. The lines that run intermittently resemble calligraphic symbols wrought over bold fields that seem to overlap, if not superimpose, on one another.

With kinetic brushstrokes, Reyes creates strong gesture lines and gashes that seem to leap out spontaneously. The movement resembles the work of action painters like Jackson Pollock and his layered strands of pigment, but that's where the inspiration ends.

Reyes' art derives its energy from the masterly strokes and the emotional signification of color, a native hedonist who takes pure delight in the magisterial effect of colors with hues he has transformed into his own distinct style.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

Unrelated fragments assume definite forms

By Constantino C. Tejero

ASSEMBLAGE is a relatively new sculptural type and method, starting to gain grudging acceptance only in the latter part of the last century. (The term was coined by Jean Dubuffet in the 1950s.)

The artist throws in various unrelated fragments, found objects and discarded materials, hoping to compose a unified whole, and the resulting form is usually outrageous, radical, silly, weird as any hybrid can be. More often than not, the whole is just as haphazard as the parts—as disorganized and amorphous as when the artist began.

Somewhat taking on definite forms were the 10 pieces of assemblage by Lirio Salvador in a recent exhibit simply titled "Stainless," at The Drawing Room in Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

The pieces were of stainless steel, in mixed media, and frighteningly futuristic-looking. Composed of tubes and sprockets, bicycle parts, P traps, drainage springs, salad bowls, peanut and candy bowls, ice-cream scoops and drums, ashtrays, canisters, screws, mechanical nuts and bolts, each piece reminded the viewer of the exposed mechanism of a clock.

This is a multidisciplinary merging, of technology, music, sculpture, even performance. The artist says he was inspired by his urban environment, particularly the rococo-baroque adornments of the jeepney, the flashing embellishments of pedicabs.

Ingeniously crafted

Except for the two desk lamps made of bowls and sprockets screwed together and titled "George I" and "George II," all the sculptural pieces in the exhibit were ingeniously crafted musical instruments. And they were functional, too, although they had no frets, and they didn't sound like normal musical instruments.

"They produce an open tune if played," explains the artist. "It's atonal music, used as cue during performance."

A Fine Arts graduate, Salvador has a band called Elemento. Thus he has been immersed in improvisation, free-form music, chance music, which has obviously influenced his sculptural work.

"Baby Sandata 4" is a three-stringed violin, with P traps forming the outline of its sounding box, a tube for neck, a smaller tube for bridge, a reflexologist's clear-rubber equipment serving as chin rest. This basic formation is repeated in the other instruments.

"Sidardata" is a four-stringed sitar with a large salad bowl as resonating gourd, its long broad neck lined laterally with drawer handles to serve as frets.

"Sandata 1-E" is a double bass with a drum's pedal utilized as saddle.

"Sandata 3-D" is a six-stringed electric guitar, with the P traps outlining the body adorned with innumerable nuts and bolts, and two slender pipes joined to form the fret-less fingerboard. Another guitar is "Sandata 3-E."

"SANDATA 3-D"

"GEORGE I"

Mysterious object

"Sandata 2-C" is a two-stringed *kudyapi*, its body formed by overlapping sprocket wheels framed by slender tubes.

"Sandata 1-D" is a two-stringed viola da gamba, with drainage springs like tentacles symmetrically intertwining with the P traps to form the body's outline.

Behind a black shroud in a corner gleams the form of a cello, composed of salad bowls, ice-cream scoops, complete with a bow and an amplifier made of a big cylindrical mixing bowl. Its concealment gives it a mysterious quality, as if it were a living thing.

The 34-year old artist started doing assemblage when he was 23. "Stainless" was only his second exhibit.

He plans to hold his third next year with the same medium and technique, but this time of sculptural weapons, the real *sandata*—guns, bows and arrows, spears, knives, machete. Those should be even more frightening in their futuristic forms.

As it was, the exhibit's stainless-steel clockwork countenance looked cold and frightening, like instruments of torture. Upon closer inspection, however, it attained a look that could be as lovely as that of marble or clay, and certainly more intricate than human hands could fashion.

MANILA-BASED artists Joe Datuin, Eghai Roxas, Nemi Miranda and Pancho Piano, who belong to ArtPhilippines, will open their exhibit at the Philippine Center on May 1, with Hon. Consul General Linglingay Lacanlale as special guest of honor. From New York, the exhibit will proceed to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. ArtPhilippines also intends to show Philippine contemporary art to audiences in Europe, specifically in Vienna, Brussels, Belgium, Prague, Berlin and Rome.

Sta. Ana at Gallery 139

GALLERY 139 at the Art Space, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, presents art director-turned-painter Ernie Sta. Ana in his fourth one-man exhibition of acrylic on canvas April 25-May 7.

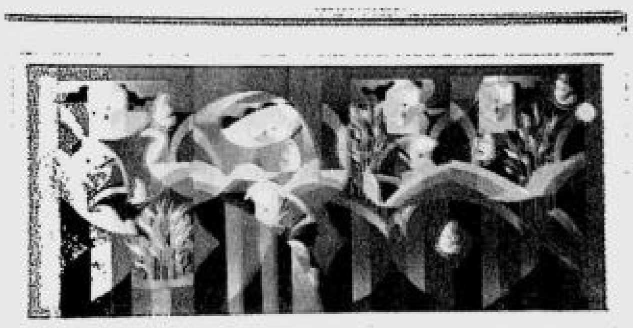
"Mother Nature" captures two well-loved themes—Mother and Child and Mother Nature—using a kaleidoscope of colors and a modern painting style the artist calls "soft geometric cubism."

A veteran of three sold-out shows, Sta. Ana holds the degrees of fine arts from the University of Sto. Tomas and interior design from the Philippine School of Interior Design. He first caught the public's eye in advertising art, an arena where he reaped numerous awards for his high-visibility television commercials and print ads while serving as art director for leading advertising agencies.

In painting, Sta. Ana exhibits a visual impact and fervor. Noted art critic and newspaper columnist Cid Reyes said, "There is so much to savor visually in Sta. Ana's art works, and his paintings are a blending of fine, delicate execution, and warm, earthy colors that do not exhaust the eye."

Gallery 139 is open daily, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., at the 3/L of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

ERNIE Sta. Ana working on one of his original paintings


"GREAT Providers—Series II"

DENR, McDonald's and Church connive to destroy Batangas heritage church

From page F3

Theresa's College in Cebu City, and still exists to this day as one of the better schools in the province.

Carcar developed a distinctive cuisine. Its baked delicacies and desserts remain well-known throughout the province. It became the source for labor-intensive leathercraft, producing elaborately embroidered, hand-crafted mules that Cebuanas would journey to Carcar to order. The active Carcar art scene revolved around the painter Abellana, mentor to most of Cebu's best painters today. Abellana is a candidate for National Artist.

The architectural manifestations of the great economic windfall of the early 20th century are unique in the country. Spanning the late Spanish era from the late 1890s through the American period of the 1930s, the architecture is a departure from the solid *bahay na bato* with forbidding stone walls as the base for tightly shuttered capiz windows. Carcaranon craftsmanship carves wood with a grace that turns it into lace, a style that reaches its peak in the 1920s when the Carcar Dispensary with its elaborate carved verandahs and the buildings of Saint Catherine's Academy were built.

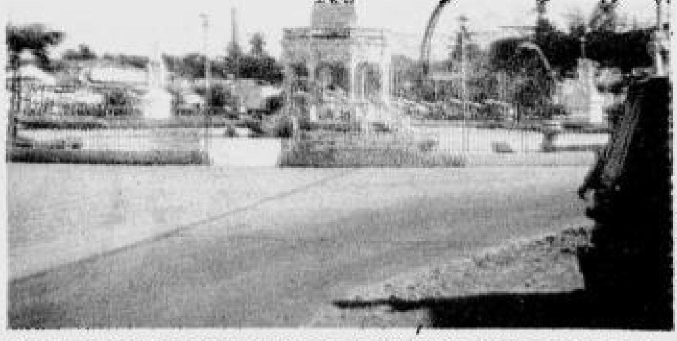
Yes, it can be argued that old structures are useless and should give way to progress. However, when the same situation threatened the city of Silay in Negros Occidental over a decade ago, the residents raised a protest that reached the NCCA, which joined forces with the NHI to declare Silay a heritage town and therefore divert the national highway from cutting through its plaza and historic houses. The result? Silay is one of the few areas in the Philippines whose residents have an enormous pride of place that they participate in the preservation of their architecture and culture.

This is the time to register your protest for Balayan and Carcar. E-mail the Heritage Conservation Society Secretary at hcs@homeharbor.com or hcsphils@yahoo.com. The Secretariat will take care of forwarding your message to the appropriate authorities.

For information on the Heritage Conservation Society Art Auction scheduled for April 27, 5:30-8 p.m., at Le Soufflé in The Fort, call 522-2497 and 521-2239 or text (0917)7952367 or (0917)8300293.

Contact the same numbers for information and bookings on the summer weekend walking tours around Manila conducted by the HCS.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph


THE AMERICAN-PERIOD gazebo built in the 1920s stands in the center of the Carcar Rotunda. It will disappear with the construction of a new highway.

Fiesta express in Bicol

By James P. Ong
Contributor

WHEN it comes to fiestas, Filipinos are world-famous. Aklanons have seven days of Ati-Atihan, and so do Cebuanos with their Sinulog. And in May, Albay Province will try to make its mark in the global culture map with a month-long festival called Magayon, which translates to "beautiful" in English.

And when they say month-long, they mean it. Over 40 activities have been crammed into the festival calendar, clustered into four areas: arts and culture; travel and tourism; sports, games and recreation; and special events.

Now if that sounds too hedonistic, it may be because while the Ati-Atihan and Sinulog are religious celebrations honoring the Santo Niño, the Magayon Festival is a tribute to a figure from the country's pre-Christianity era—Daragang Magayon, Albay's mythical maiden whose tragic love story is believed to have formed Mayon Volcano.

The festival, which has been held since 1999, is a brainchild of Albay Gov. Al Francis C. Bichara. It relives the province's historical and cultural heritage through songs, dances, visual arts, literature and traditional crafts.

"There is something for everyone here," he says. "It's an excellent venue to experience the various surprises the province has to offer. At first, people were doubting if we could sustain a month-long festival. In our case, this is the only time in the year that we have a full summer and the flights are regular."

The effort goes well with the current Department of Tourism drive to encourage interdomestic tourism. And if all goes well, it might even lead to a boost in foreign tourism. According to Bichara, the first three Magayons were well-attended not just by Filipinos but also by foreigners.

"It has to start from somewhere," he says. "Even Boracay started with local tourists. What happens is the residents bring their foreign friends to see the place. Then they enjoy what they see and tell their other friends. This year, we're counting on even more people to attend—both local and international tourists."

'Lively' arts scene

Albay is one of six provinces in the Bicol Region. The rest are Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Catanduanes and Masbate. Legazpi City, the capital of Albay, is centrally located in the region and is accessible from Manila in less than a hour by plane or around 12 hours by bus.

There are several tourist destinations in Albay alone, the most popular of which is the perfect-coned Mayon Volcano, regarded by not a few as "the eight wonder of the world."

This year, the arts play a pivotal role in the Magayon Festival. The artist Gus Albor, chair of the Legazpi-based Center for Bicol Artists' Guild Foundation (Cebica), is working closely with festival organizers for several activities, including a mural making cum street party on May 10 in the newly built Peñaranda Park, where local artists will be participating.

Cebica was organized in December last year and has more than 20 members, some of whom were part of the original Bicol Artists' Guild, which was formed in 1984 with only eight members.

Manila-based Albor has lately been going back to his hometown twice a month, enduring the nine-hour drive from his home in Parañaque, leaving as early as 5 a.m. to avoid the traffic. It's partly for his commitment to Cebica and also because he is busy building a modest studio right by the sea, facing the Pacific Ocean.

He says the shoreline view inspires him as an artist, although he is not about to abandon his abstracts for landscapes.

Cebica is open not just to painters but also to sculptors and other visual artists. "They are free to develop their own style. And we also welcome other artists like poets and musicians." Albor describes the arts and culture scene in Bicol as "lively and positive," but notes that the only university course related to fine arts is being offered by Aquinas University. It is geared toward graphics design and advertising.

That is why the group is actively seeking grants to help it promote arts and culture in the province. Last year, it earned P25,000 from a fund-raising exhibition to help casualties of the Mayon Volcano eruption in July last year.

Cagsawa Ruins

One of Cebica's current projects is to convince municipal authorities to allow them to build a headquarters in the historic Cagsawa Ruins, where they have already identified an area they'd like to occupy.

In 1814, Mayon Volcano erupted and sent lava flows cascading down its sides. The townspeople of Cagsawa fled to the church where they perished when it was engulfed in the fiery flows. Today, only the church tower remains as a memorial.

ROBERTO Gonzales proudly displays the Guinness citation he won for eating 300 hot chili peppers in three minutes.

Albor says there are now squatters in the area and vendors selling souvenir items to tourists. "If they give it to us, we can manage it better because we are more aware of its cultural importance and care about its preservation," he reasons.

This early, Cebica is planning an art project with an environmental theme for March of next year. They will clean one of Albay's shorelines by getting kids who live nearby to clear out the garbage. "Then they will pile it on the sand and we'll turn into an installation art. Afterward, we'll dispose of the garbage properly," he says.

They are also planning an outdoor sculpture exhibition, also near a shore, using big boulders from the solidified Mayon Volcano lava flow.

The arts scene in Albay comes alive at night when artists hang out at Clique, a fairly new gallery, bar and restaurant run by Beth Estevez, a fellow artist. Prior to this they met for drinks at Zentro, owned by artist Jim Orense. But, like the Penguin Café it was likened to, it recently closed, after five years of operation.

Estevez is also the president of the Albay Tourism Council, a nongovernment organization involved in producing souvenirs with an art-bent to be sold during the Magayon Festival. This includes coloring books, hand puppets and feature animations formatted in VCD and VHS that feature the Kalaw or Hornbill, which is part of the provincial seal of Albay. The council hopes to raise P300,000 from these souvenirs, which will also be used to teach tourists environmental awareness.

Governor Bichara is only too excited about the Magayon Festival, one of his last major projects as he serves his final term in office. He says one of his goals is "to detach the festival from any political leadership," but hopes whoever his successor will be in 2004 will support the project which, according to him, initially cost him some P4-million in 1999. With corporate partners now actively helping, expenses have been trimmed down to more than a third.

Of course, a visit to Magayon Festival shouldn't be just about the arts and culture scene. You've never been to Bicol without witnessing for yourself the local appetite for chili peppers. On May 26 at Peñaranda Park, a "Sili-eating Contest" will be held. It would be fun to watch who could beat the current title holder, Roberto Gonzales of Camalig, Albay, whose record is 300 hot chili peppers.

ALBAY Gov. Al Francis Bichara with Magayon reveler

puyat dahil sa sneezing
'di makatulog dahil sa clogged nose
balisa dahil sa runny nose
Dahil mahaba ang gabi sa batang may sipon
Umiyak dahil sa headache
Pinawisan dahil sa fever
'di mapakali dahil sa sore throat
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Kaya may Neozep Syrup for Kids.
Anumang sintomas, napagiginhawa.

'Di tulad ng ibang gamot, kaya ng Neozep Syrup for Kids ang sintomas na dala ng sipon. Di lamang runny nose, clogged nose at sneezing – pati na headache, fever at sore throat. Madali pang painumin dahil sa yummy strawberry-candy flavor. H'wag nang patagalin ang pahirap niya sa gabi.

Basta sipon ng bata,
Neozep Syrup for Kids.

Sell-out exhibit, Swiss send-off and American food binge

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

CORY Quirino, Bencab and Annie Sarthou

MAAN Hontiveros

DON Enrique Zobel, Arturo Luz and Dee Zobel

MALANG, Billy Abueva and Anita Magsaysay-Ho

PATRICK Quianson, Ramona Singian, Tita Trillo, executive sous chef of Hotel Inter-Con Cyrille Soenen, executive chef of Crown Plaza-L.A. Dale Hart, Usda councilor Charles Alexander, Chad Davis and Jennifer Peña

IT was a sellout. **Bencab**'s SRO exhibit, "Homage to Sabel," at the Luz Gallery left some aficionados empty-handed as eager beavers trooped all the way to Baguio beforehand to grab the works. **Maria Grazia Anelli**, cultural attaché of the Italian embassy, felt the 37 images of women realized in broad strokes swathed in startling white were representative of all women.

With flowers by **Antonio Garcia** of Mabolo, cocktail food by **Gaita Fores** (the *kamias* juice was absolutely delicious; it turned out it was Ben's suggestion), **Josine Elizalde** helping **Annie Sarthou** with the finer details, and **Pepito Albert** presenting two high fashion creations inspired by the paintings, the exhibit was a long way from Bencab's initial subject when he started out—the scavenger woman from Bambang, said to be the original Sabel.

Gracing the occasion was **Enrique Zobel** and solicitous wife **Dee**, wonderfully gifted **Gilda Cordero**, **Maritess Pineda**, **Lourdes Montinola**, **Maan Hontiveros**, **Cory Quirino**, **Tessie** and National Artist and gallery owner **Arturo Luz**, of course, and Dr. **Jaime Laya**, among others. It was a great birthday party celebrating Ben's 60th.

* * *

The elegant pink residence of Dr. **Luciano** and **Helen Ong** was the scene—one of the firsts of many, I'm sure—of *despedidas* for Swiss Ambassador Dr. **Werner Baumann** and his very popular blonde wife **Suzy**. A small intimate group of friends gathered at two tables for a buffet of native delicacies.

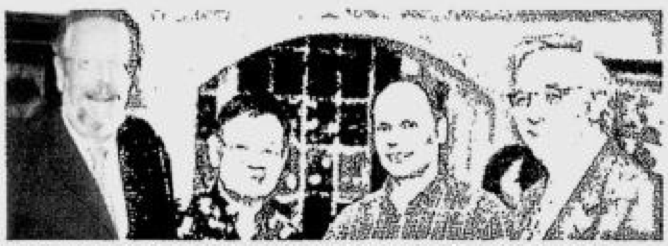
Among the guests were Belgian Ambassador **Roland Remoortele** and his expert diver wife **Sylvia**, who has experienced some of our best dive spots and is now on the trail of the "big ones," meaning sharks and whales. No more nice little angel fish for her. Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti** was there joking that he now wished to be known as Il Presidente, together with wife **Clara** who, if you're lucky, may be persuaded to sing a soulful version of "O Sole Mio."

(Bocceli fans will be happy to know there are plans afoot for a concert in September. That's the good news. The bad news is that the price tag of $1 million means tickets will be out of most people's range.)

Everywhere you go people are talking of the latest scandal—**Marybeth de Leon**'s fatal shooting of **Joe Vincent**'s nurse. Seems Marybeth is insisting it was an accident, which won't get her off the hook, by the way. She would still have to stand trial. What isn't explained is why she had the gun with her.

* * *

TESSIE Luz, Mme. Suzy Baumann (honoree), Letty Syquia, Mme. Herbert Jess of Germany and Mme. Sylvia Remoortele of Belgium


ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Dr. Luciano Ong, Glenn Gale and Canadian Ambassador Robert Collete

SWISS Ambassador Dr. Werner Baumann and German Ambassador Herbert Jess

VENEZUELAN Ambassador Milena Ramirez, Helen Ong and Marilyn Collete

The Americans are not just in Basilan. They've also landed at Hotel Inter-Con in a grand showcase of the best American food products this side of the Atlantic. Until May 3, there's a "Great American Food Festival" both at the Jeepney Bar and at the Prince Albert where visiting chef **Dale Hart** and chef **Cyrille Soenen** present a Fil-Am-French fusion.

At the press lunch that lasted a good three hours after which we finally staggered back to work, we had some really sinful but delightful treats, such as bean soup with *chorizo* cappuccino, roasted sea bass with garlic confit, crab cakes and braised US beef short ribs, not to mention the apple ginger tart with vanilla bean ice cream and caramel sauce. **Tita Trillo** contributed the Talus Merlot and the Cabernet Vichon-Mediterranean. (Help!—so now you know where the extra pounds I put on came from. **Mickey Fenix** advises we gotta find some way get to rid of this sense of guilt when indulging!)

Rizal fraternity established in Germany

RIZAL'S life and example lives on in Germany. Solemn, closeted rituals accompanied the founding of the Order of the Knights of Rizal and the initiation into the brotherhood on March 8 at the Bulwagang Bagumbayan of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin.

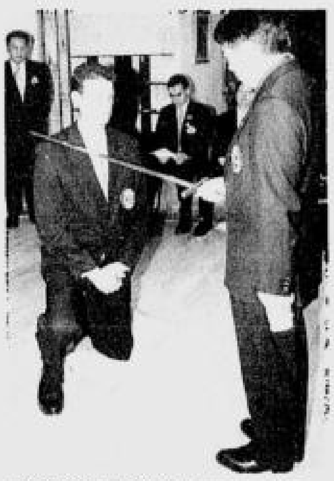
Ambassador Jose Abeto Zaide inducted 17 founding members into the fraternity, including three envoys, the head of Deutschewelle, a TV anchor man, officials of the German foreign office and political foundation, academics and gentlemen of different callings.

In his remarks, the ambassador acknowledged the debt of the fraternity to his former boss, Ambassador Abad, who introduced the Order in Germany in 1982 together with then supreme commander of the KoR, retired Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee. He also cited the claim of the Ambassador of Malaysia, Dato Kadir Mohammed Deen, that "Rizal does not belong only to the Philippines: he is a Malay hero." Even beyond that, Zaide said, "Rizal is the prime exponent of universal brotherhood, as manifested in his friendship and professional bonding with Europe's eminent men of science and letters."

Inducted founding members of the Berlin Chapter were Ambassador Rahardjo Jamtomo (Indonesia), Ambassador Jose Pedro Sebastian de Erice (Spain), Ambassador Dato Abdul Kadir Mohammed Deen (Malaysia), Christoph Lanz (Deutschewelle TV managing director), Thomas Klein (Deutschewelle anchorman), consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, Oliver Papoli-Barawati, Col. Emiliano Buyco (defense attaché), consul Armando Comia, consul Sulpicio Confiado, Udo Peter Ernst Dahmen, consul general Joselito Jimeno, Werner Flechsig, Klaus Hasse, Andreas Herbig, Detlef Hermann, Siegfried Herzog, Stephan Kerber, Michael Marquez, Romulo Morales, Gerhard Mueller and Michael Stockmann.

The initiation was assisted by KoR area commander for Germany Klaus Hartung, executive officer for Europe Celso Lacuna, Ruben Navarro and Heinz van Opstal. The ambassador is commander of the Berlin Chapter. The other officers are Heinz van Opstal, Joselito A. Jimeno, Sulpicio M. Confiado, Ronaldo B. Villanueva, Dr. Ruben Navarro and trustees Klaus Hasse, Siegfried Herzog, Christoph Lanz.

Knights of Rizal chapters are now in Austria (Vienna), Belgium (Antwerp, Brussels and Ghent), Germany (Berlin, Bonn/Cologne, Dortmund, Hamburg, Freiburg and Heidelberg/Wilhelmsfed), France (Paris) and the United Kingdom (London).


DEUTSCHEWELLE managing director Christoph Lanz being knighted by Ambassador Jose Abeto Zaide, Berlin Chapter commander, while other inductees look on.

THE NEW Knights of Rizal as they take their oath at the Bulwagang Bagumbayan of the Philippine Embassy

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The 18-day hands-on Essential Cooking Series classes cover topics such as stocks, broths, classic white & brown sauces, breads, cakes, pastries, soufflés and many more. Techniques to be taught include braising. steaming, poaching, boiling, grilling, broiling, roasting, frying & sautéing.

Classes begin on April 25, 2002 and ends on June 1, 2002. Classes are held every Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10AM to 4PM. Sign up now to secure your spot as the class size in limited to 16 students only and fill up quickly. Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit. For more information call Lirio at tel. #: 726-5316 / 412-7792.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

May 1 (Wednesday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P1,500 SIMPLE PLEASURES by: Jill Sandique, Chef / Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School * Crème Brulee, Mexican White Flan, Strawberry Tunnel Cake, Blueberry Peach Torte, Pineapple Crumb Cake & Gateau Sans Rival

May 6 (Monday) 9:00-1:30 p.m. P1,500 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing.

May 6 (Monday) 2:30-5:00 p.m. P1,500 BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison *Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center and Butterscotch Bars

May 7 (Tuesday) 9:00-5:00 p.m. P2,500 PIZZA CLASS by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Bansia, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan Italy.
* In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sacue, white sauce base, preparation, setting up pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetarian, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti de Mare **Demonstration with student participation.**

May 8 (Wednesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m. P1,500 SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison *Chocolate Chip Cookies, Jam Thumbprint Cookies, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal and Chocolate Crinkles.

May 8 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,500 MOTHER'S DAY MENU by: Alleen Anastacio, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweets, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy * Prawn & Mango Salad with Orange Vinaigrette, Risotto with Mushroom & Garlic Sausage, Seared Salmon Fillet with Caper & Lemon, Herbed Roasted Potatoes or Scallop Potatoes, Sicilian Style Broccoli and Apple Tarte Tatin.

May 13 (Monday) 9:00-5:00 p.m. P2,500 PASTA II by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli *Maccheroni Al Forno (Baked Macaroni), Lasagna Al Pesto / Al Formaggi Alla Bolognese, Cannelloni con Ricotta E Spinaci, Pasta Arlecchino (Homemade fresh pasta with 6 different colors) stuffed with meat, Ricotta, Spinach & Salmon. **Demonstration with student participation.**

May 14 (Tuesday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P2,000 SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer * Learn different styles of table arrangements & home decors. **Demonstration & hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.**

May 15 (Wednesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m. P1,500 CHILDREN'S BAKING I by: Jill Sandique *Chocolate Crackles, Fudgy Brownies, lemon Pie, Snickerdoodles, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies and Chocolate Chip Cookies.

May 15 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,500 A TASTE OF THAI by: Alleen Anastacio, * Crispy Catfish Salad with Mango, Chicken Pandan, Fish Fillet with Chili Garlic Sauce, Phad Thai, Tom Yang Gung & Thai Halo-Halo.

May 20 (Monday) 9:00-5:00 p.m. P2,500 PANINI E FRITTATE by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli *Learn how to make Italian style sandwiches & different style of Fritata with original Italian flavors. Recipes: Freddi Linea Semplice, Toast Farciti, Panini Caldi con Verdure (Vegetables), Cotolette (Veal, Chick or Pork) with Fritata, with Arugula, Shrimps & with Formaggi. **Demonstration with student participation.**

May 21 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CAJUN II by: Jill Sandique * Denise Chocolate Truffle Cake, Chocolate Chocolate Cupcakes, Baked Cookies & Cream Cheesecake, Dark Chocolate Pot de Crème, Chocolate Mousse and Chocolate Banana Soufflé.

May 22 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,500 ELEGANT DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique * English Trifle, Tiramisu, Coeur a la Crème, Panna Cotta, Profiteroles and Mount Vesuvius.

May 27 (Monday) 9:00-5:00 p.m. P2,500 PIZZA II by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli * Erbazzone (Three layers with Ricotta, Spinach, Parmesan & Vegetables), Tortellone (Stuffed Pizza with Meat, Parmesan & Besciamelle), Calzona (Napoletana, White Sauce and Chicken, Tuna Capers & Vegetarian). Learn new style of pizza with Kesong Puti, Tofu and other local ingredients. **Demonstration with student participation.**

May 28-29 (Tuesday-Wednesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P3,700 CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison * Learn the basics cake decorating: icings, color, star, shell, dots & outline borders; the rose, figure piping: clown & booties. You'll bake & decorate & character birthday cake. Full participation.

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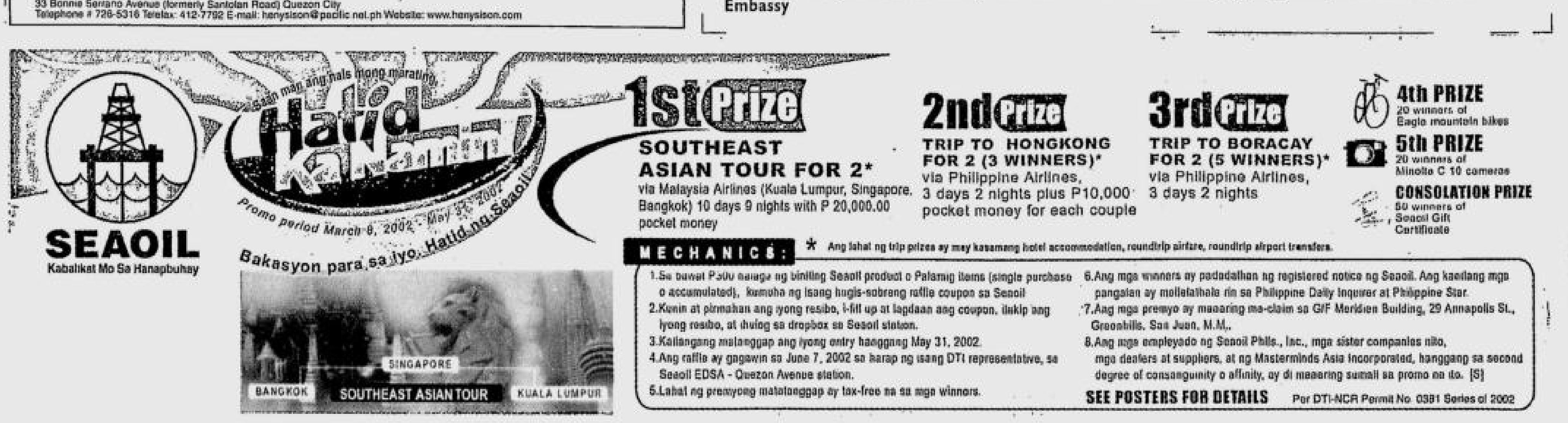
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4. Ang raffle ay gagawin sa June 7, 2002 sa harap ng isang DTI representative, sa Seaoil EDSA - Quezon Avenue station.
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